

UPTON ASSOCIATION *Update*

PUBLISHED BY THE UPTON ASSOCIATION, INC.



From the President: SEASON BRINGS RENEWED HOPE

By Sandy Mahaffey

Whew! We thought when the Fall Newsletter was published and mailed, we might have seen a reprieve in our distress over this terrible virus that has affected millions and has taken thousands of lives but some of us are still waiting on the vaccine, still taking all precautions, still wearing masks and safe distancing. Every one of us can relate to some or all the stories of this virus because it has affected all in some way. Our sincere sympathies to those who have lost loved ones especially because of the isolation. Prayers go out to each and every one.

At Harriet's home our news is similar. No rentals or programs have been given since last March. We are praying to open this magnificent home this year. Hopefully, this Spring and Summer we will have visitor's tours, programs to attend and of course, be able to celebrate the 19th Amendment. These plans will be fulfilled this summer with the Health Department's permission.

Thank you all who renewed your membership this year. It was especially important since our rentals help with utilities and maintenance of Harriet's home. We had to cancel our Christmas Garage Sale in November. LOOK FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEWSLETTER regarding that sale. Also, our July Sale will be scheduled, and I know everyone looks forward to that event. All of our event programs will be sent to you as we schedule them, so look for information coming your way soon.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Women's Park, the Gardens, the one day outside Garage Sale and the house maintenance. Ken Conklin replaced over 400 Bricks in the Women's Park. Thank you to Ken and Elaine! I also want to thank the Executive Board who continued to meet even though our Board of Directors did not meet during the very bad months of the pandemic.

UPCOMING 2021 UPTON EVENTS ~ SAVE THE DATES!

Women's Equality Day **Thursday, August 26**

By Sandy Mahaffey

Women's Equality Day is August 26. Our celebration will begin at 12 p.m. at the Women's Park in Warren. We will be celebrating 101 years of the passing of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. This year will be a special event so we are hoping you will join us. Please mark your calendar!



Harriet's Garden Beautification Day

Sunday, May 9 & Thursday, May 13

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Spring Luncheon

Saturday, June 26

*Guest Speaker: Dr. Molly Sergi
Kent State University, Burton Branch
Invitations will be sent in May*

Upton Garage Sales

*Watch for a special announcement
coming soon on dates/times!*

Curator Report

By *Saundra Sarsany*

The following donations have been received from Upton Association member Carolyn Andrews:

- A very ornate kerosene lamp with glass chimney and very decorative base that will look good on the table outside the upstairs bedroom. (At right)
- A piece of jewelry from her vintage collection that will be displayed on the dresser in the master bedroom. (Below)



Rental Report: *Probable Reopening*

By *Kathy Lepro*

The title of the Fall 2020 Upton Rental Report was “A Challenging Year.” It certainly was, and it has continued into 2021, as we remain closed for rentals. However, with the drop in the number of COVID-19 cases and the vaccine becoming increasingly more accessible, near-future rentals at Harriet’s home are more conceivable.

By year’s end, the total number of rentals may not be like those in the past, but I predict that we will far surpass the 12 rentals of 2020. As a matter of fact, there already are six reservations for spring events, although there is not a 100% guarantee that the House will be open. Perspective renters are told this and are encouraged to call me for confirmation prior to sending out their invitations. So far everyone has been understanding...and optimistic!

Just the other day, I received a request for a rental for a wedding ceremony and reception in May of 2022. Do you think there is a 100% assurance that the Harriet Taylor Upton House will be available to renters by then? We sure hope so!

One thing I can absolutely promise right now is that 380 Mahoning Avenue in downtown Warren remains beautiful and is a reasonably priced venue for almost any type of future event. We anticipate the re-opening to become a reality very soon.

Visit our website for the latest updates:
www.uptonhouse.org

Finance Report: *Virus Scuttles 2020 Budget*

By *Judi Sheridan*

After the March shutdown, all events planned for 2020 were put on the shelf hopefully to come back in 2021. Membership dues achieved their goal, but house rentals were cancelled for the year. Thanks to Janet Schweitzer, who applied for an Ohio Cares Grant, the house rental deficit was partially covered. The grant was for \$3,613. The utility bills continued to arrive every month even though there were no events. The one-day yard sale was a bright spot in the summer.

The Endowment continued to grow with donations by members and memorial donations in honor of Kay Fisher. Fisher’s estate also left a substantial donation to the Endowment. The Endowment was valued

at \$169,489.86 at year end.

The Women’s Park had substantial expenses in 2020 when a substitute for the worn 8”x8” bricks was found, and replacement was begun. Ken and Elaine Conklin spent the summer installing newly etched bricks and that part of the job is almost done. New 12”x12” stone replacements have been purchased and the process of replacing them will begin this spring. At year end the Women’s Park had a healthy balance of \$28,600.79.

Please consider remembering a beloved woman, daughter, mother, granddaughter, or friend by purchasing a brick in the Women’s Park. The Park is truly a gem in the local landscape.

WOMEN'S PARK REPORT

By Marti Flint

Winter saw the Women's Park resting with a few local people walking and enjoying the quiet. The highlight of the season was the beautiful snow on Christmas Day. Shuttic Arts did a lovely video of our snowy park and posted it on their Facebook page for all to enjoy. Now the weather is getting warmer and there are more signs of spring. The earliest plant to bloom is the Lenten rose (*Helleborus x hybridus*) and the spring bulbs are starting to send up shoots throughout the park.

Some of volunteers have spent time removing debris and getting the beds ready to weed when the weather is right. There have been many questions as to when the city is replacing the trees that were removed at the back of the Women's Park. I have been in contact with the city from time to time and do not have a firm timeline. The fall of 2020 had been mentioned and now talks are of spring or fall 2021. Be assured our group will continue to work with the city on this, but as they are in charge, we must wait and see as all of you are doing. Come walk through the park and enjoy the spring.

House Report

By Ken Conklin

I am sure many of you know there has been a virus throughout the world and has caused the Upton House to be closed for almost a year. Therefore, there is not much to report regarding the House. We did however, contact Phillips Heating to install a new air conditioner which should serve us for some years to come.

Thanks to Judi Sheridan for making new curtains for the display kitchen and gift shop area. They give the rooms a totally new look and allow a lot of light to shine through the windows. THANK YOU!

I thought I would share with you a hidden treasure in Harriet's home. In the large upstairs bedroom, we have a table with a papier-mâché top. It is beautiful. This was a gift from Larry and Barb Wright.

Papier-mâché in French means chewed paper. I do not believe Larry or Barb made the tabletop! It consists of wood pulp, sometimes mixed with clay or sand. Many pieces were decorated with mother-of-pearl inlay, tortoiseshell, and gold leaf. Then the top was molded into a desired shape, baked, decorated, and polished to a glossy finish. Our table is a perfect example of this. The base of the table is iron.

Harriet is very proud to have this displayed in her home.

Maybe in future newsletters, we can tell you of other "hidden" treasures in the Upton House.



Worth Watching...

Julia and Rob Thorndike, videographers, recently spent the day in Harriet's home to record and produce two new films – *Harriet Taylor Upton's Story* and *Harriet Taylor Upton's House Tour*. Please view at www.uptonhouse.org.

A special THANK YOU to Julia and Rob for their work and to the Trumbull County Women's Committee, the Upton Association, the Women's Equality Committee, GFWC Ohio Junior Cyberlinks Club and Esther Gartland for funding this project.

Story Time with Mrs. Claus A Safe, 'Virtual' Success!

By E. Carol Maxwell

Mrs. Claus was delighted to welcome girls and boys (a total of 33 to be exact) at the 2020 Story Time with Mrs. Claus event held in the parlor of Harriet Taylor Upton's former home on December 12-13, 2020. Parents called Mrs. Claus when the children arrived for their special individual 10-minute appointment. They entered the house through the front door. Everyone wore their masks. Parents or grandparents (whoever brought the children) took a picture of their child(ren) standing near or behind Mrs. Claus and the children told Mrs. Claus what they would like for Christmas (or what they wanted her to tell Santa!).

Then the children picked up a special bag of goodies with their name on it. Each bag included: a holiday material mask; a wooden mitten frame packet; a plaid mitten craft packet; craft adhesive; a folder of pages to color (winter holiday pictures, connect the dots, and word search puzzles); a wrapped mitten-shaped cookie; a bottle of hand sanitizer; and a card with the website link where the children could watch Mrs. Claus read stories and sing songs.

For everyone to feel safe, when the children's visit was over, the family walked across the hall and exited the house through the Library back door.

Mrs. Claus missed all her elves and elfettes who have helped her prepare for this annual event the past 14 years! A special thank you to Koreen Palm and her daughters Colleen and Caleigh who worked many hours preparing the craft packets, and to their friend Zack who made the wooden mitten frames for the children to decorate and put their picture in. Thank you also to Linda Davis who helped Mrs. Claus put together the folder of pages to color. An extra thank you to Koreen for helping Mrs. Claus on both days of the event, as well as to Ken and Elaine Conklin for decorating the parlor.



A Memorable Event for All...

"Thank you for providing such a memorable experience for our grandchildren. They haven't stopped talking about it and they gleefully completed all the craft items you provided for them!" ~ Judie Pecorelli

"We wished to express how happy we were with the Storytime event. The safety protocols you implemented and adhered to were recognized and appreciated. We were even more surprised once we opened the children's gift bags! You obviously invested an immense amount to ensure each child had a festive holiday memory from start to finish. While altered from the norm, we thank you for your dedication to this annual tradition and helping to create a lasting memory for our family." ~ Raymond & Jennifer Soloman

2020 Story Time with Mrs. Claus



Garden Report: With 2020 Behind Us, We Look Ahead

By Carol Olson

No one person could keep up with the dynamic nature of Harriet's Garden demands. I want to thank everyone who volunteered during the fall season giving freely of their time and energy resulting in the beauty of Harriet's Gardens during the fall season -- even knowing that the COVID pandemic would not allow full use of house rental activities. The garden members who worked keeping Harriet's Gardens pristine, removing debris and leaves were: Hank Angelo, Donna Beatty, Ruth Ann Capito, Joyce Fleischer, Pam Rintala, Deborah Rudloff, Sandy Sarsany, Kathy Seemann, Diana Tripi, Kim Welch and Carol Olson. They gave 104 volunteer hours during the fall.

In 2021, donations of plants from Michael Paquet at Warren Greenhouse and Raul Kemp at the Trumbull County Technical and Career Center, will be changing. They donated the majority of the annuals and some new perennials for Harriet's Gardens. Raul retired in 2020. Michael was thinking about it, but we have not seen any announcement about Michael. Carol is sending a letter to Joel Gray, Superintendent at TCTC to inquire if the past practice established by Raul will continue.

On September 11, Carol met with Carragan Timko and signed the Eagle Scout Project application, which was approved on October 21. To get ready for Eagle Scout Project, Hank made arrangements to have patio furniture moved to basement, moved two stone benches on lower patio area and disconnected the watering system. The project kicked-off on October 31 (See below). Thanks to Hank for making the initial contact with Jim Rapone the project finally came to fruition.

This was the first year the garden members attempted to "prune and trim" the huge boxwood bushes on the Monroe side of the house. They were cut back about 1/3 and we will continue that practice for the next 2 years as long as Kathy Seemann holds up!! We removed a lot of Rose of Sharon saplings, wild onions, mint, liriopse, Bishop's Weed, and overgrown Roxanne Geraniums.

On October 17, the first pear tree on Monroe Street was damaged, probably by a truck, and some large branches were dislodged from the tree. They were too large/heavy for Carol to tackle, so Hank came to the rescue cutting up the branches and putting debris out for pick up by garbage service.

"Make a Difference Day" on October 24 was a cold and intermittent rainy day, but Harriet's Gardens were put to bed by Hank Angelo, Ruth Ann Capito, Joyce Fleischer, Pam Rintala, Deb Rudloff, Kathy Seemann and Carol Olson.

On October 31, the Eagle Scout Project began with a full working crew. The patio stones were removed to prepare for digging out four inches of soil. November 7 was another project day with 10 adults and five students. Carol met Mr. Delacardi, the landscaper on the project. He used his Bobcat to remove tree roots by the patio area,

*"The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven –
All's right with the world!"*

~ Robert Browning



remove the soil and leveled the area. A stabilizing base of gravel was laid, and the stone slabs placed on top with help of the Bobcat. Trumbull Neighborhood Partners provided the large stone slabs. One hosta was removed by the patio walkway. There is now a step down on the patio walkway. During the project, there was one injury; the individual with a smashed finger was taken to ER. Carol donated donuts and bottled water for the project volunteers. The work hour count so far is well over 130 hours.

In 2021, we will observe if the 2020 new plants added to the Harriet's Gardens were not damaged during the winter season and became established. Kathy Seemann, who planted the herb garden and also added Milkweed to attract monarch butterflies to Harriet's Garden, may be changing plantings in the area. We must wait to see if the Milkweed was destroyed at the end of August with the removal of the uprooted Mulberry Tree. Hostas, ferns, and Dusty Miller were damaged in Harriet and Kay's bed during the process. We also lost some plants at the entry walkway on the side of the garage. We will assess these areas in May and make the necessary plans and changes.

Even though COVID guidelines were being observed, we hope you had the opportunity to see the consistency of colorful blooms that changed and lasted through the fall season in Harriet's Garden. Thanks again to the wonderful volunteers! The only way Harriet's Garden continues to exist is through our dedicated volunteers.

*We will start our garden clean up on
May 9 & May 13 beginning at 9 a.m.
for Harriet's Garden Beautification Day.
Please consider becoming a new volunteer
for 2021 even if only for one day.*



About Harriet

By Elizabeth Cole Clark

I need to remind myself that the Harriet Taylor Upton we love and respect, by keeping her home and her memory alive, that I (and perhaps most of the Upton board members) would not have been in her social circle.

Harriet was among the elite in Warren and because of her involvement in the Suffrage Movement, she was known and loved nationally. She was surrounded by wealth with a father who was a lawyer, then a circuit court judge and, eventually, a Representative to Congress.

She had meetings in her home with the wealthy ladies of the community working with her on women's suffrage and equality issues. The ladies were available to do so because they had house maids, cooks, launderers, and gardeners. So did Harriet. When you think of the women who paraded, gave speeches, and marched in the streets, it was not the working class – teachers, nurses, or secretaries. It was the wealthy. At one time in Warren's past, the city had more millionaires per capita than any other city in Ohio.

Harriet did not let her lofty position prevent her from teaching Sunday School for 15 years; she was a founding member of the League of Women Voters, helped organize the local American Red Cross (she appointed Mrs. Izant as the Red Cross's first president), and she served for 15 years on the Board of Education. Harriet's accomplishments were numerous, and she was instrumental in the passage of the first child labor law.

THEN & NOW...COAL SHUTE

By Elizabeth Cole Clark

The photographs show this room in the west end of the Perkins Mansion (now City Hall). It shows both the original 1873 materials (mis-matched stone) used in this home as well as the new bricks used to add to the house structure. You can see the difference of the hand-cut stone, harvested somewhere locally, and the red bricks that may have been fired near New Castle, Pennsylvania. The new bricks were made after the Civil War. The coal you see is Bituminous, probably mined around Liberty or Youngstown. It was cheap coal that gave off great amounts of smoke and lots of ashes. The coal was transported to town by horses, and you can see the chute that was constructed so the coal could slide into the cellar. Another type of coal, Anthracite (mined in West Virginia), was shiny and gave off lots of great heat without producing smoke and ashes.



WOMEN'S PARK BRICKS: HAPPY SPRING!

By Linda Davis

Our beautiful Warren Women's Park is re-awakening from its winter rest and the Upton's ambitious walkway brick replacement project is hopefully drawing to a foreseeable end. We plan to have everything completed by late-summer 2021, in time for Women's Equality Day celebrations, August 26 this year – the Centennial + One!

If you did not have an opportunity in 2020 to visit our park, come enjoy the spring flowers and appreciate the walkway improvements. All of the old worn bricks and pavers are shiny and new. Thanks again to Elaine and Ken "The Brickman" Conklin for all of their hard work! The

park, of course, is located just across historic Mahoning Avenue from Harriet's home between the Kinsman House and the Perkins Mansion (Warren City Hall).

Now is the perfect time to order your own commemorative brick. Honor a special woman in your life and help support the Upton Association and the Warren's Women's Park. Order forms are available on the Upton house website or in the mailbox inside the park.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

By Marti Flint

As we enter 2021, we at the Upton are looking forward to a much more exciting year than last year. As things begin to open, we hope to have opportunities to be closer together and plan many events at the house and gardens. With that in mind, our volunteers are a big part of the plans of getting back to normal. As you start getting more involved in the community, begin to consider how you can join others in projects at the house. Some of the ongoing plans include helping in Harriet's Garden and the Women's Park. Many volunteers are also needed to help with our annual garage sales and Storytime with Mrs. Claus. The Association continues to flourish because of the dedication of its volunteers.

Board member Joyce Fleischer is the new volunteer coordinator effective immediately. Joyce will call and set up times when help is needed, or you may call (330) 974-2114 or email her at joycefleischer@att.net. Of course, any board member will be glad to talk to you about volunteering.

Membership Report

By Sandy Mahaffey

Letters were sent out in January for the annual membership drive. We are grateful for those who are committed to the Upton Association to, not only keep Harriet's memory alive but to support her home and the upkeep and repairs of this 150-year-old house. Also, we maintain the gardens and the Warren Women's Park across the street. I know you have enjoyed our beautiful flowers and the Park. Thanks goes to all the volunteers who lovingly take care of Harriet's Home. If you have not sent your membership, please do so today.

Memberships are always available. Forms are at the House or I can send one to you if you call me at 330-518-6927 or email me at sjmahaffey515@gmail.com. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Education Report

By Elizabeth Cole Clark

I am sorry to report that the school tours of last year were canceled, but plans are ready to resume the 4th grade tours. The plan this year is to tour the 5th grade students who missed last year's tour, so they, too, may learn about their community's wonderful Historic District.

There are so many things of historic importance that were housed in the basement of our City Hall (formerly the Perkins Mansion). One of them was the "Civilian Defense Radio Network." This was located in the home's canned food pantry located at the extreme East corner of the building. This was so important during World War II. Why? Trumbull County was surrounded by military installations. We had the airport (there were no jets back then) on one side of town. We were building the Sherman Tank in the former Federal Machine and Welder building (now Ajax Magnathermic). There was Copperweld Steel, Republic Steel and several other steel companies that supplied parts. And the Ravenna Arsenal (where bombs were built) was located north of Warren. Shipping products from Lordstown to APO New York or San Francisco, California, occurred on a daily basis.

The Civilian Defense Radio Network was manned 24/7. Why? In Cleveland, mainly the city of Parma, there was a huge German American Bund group who were pro Hitler all during WWII. They were watched and when there was any movement, through this radio system, we were alerted to the possible sabotage of any of the facilities noted above.



A Lasting Legacy... Purchase A Brick in The Women's Park

Help pave the courtyards and path in The Women's Park with bricks inscribed with the names of women important to you...and leave a lasting legacy in their honor.

*She was an early settler, a pioneer, an immigrant.
 She was grandmother, teacher, mentor.
 She is mother, sister, daughter, partner, friend.
 Whether she lived her whole life here or never visited,
 If she was important in your life,
 You can honor and celebrate her life and all the lives of the women you love.*



Purchaser's Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Telephone: () _____
 Email: _____

Payment: Total \$ _____ check payable to Women's Park Fund

Payment for your brick is tax deductible. Any profit from the sale of the brick goes toward the support and maintenance of the park. All bricks are the property of the Upton Association. The Upton Association wishes to thank you for your participation.

Guidelines: PLEASE PRINT! Only one character is allowed for each block **including punctuation and spaces**. You could describe her with a phrase such as: Extraordinary teacher; Music was her life; Founder of our village; Cherished friend to all. Humorous or sentimental, use this opportunity to celebrate her life. If you wish us to notify the Honoree, list name and address:

4" x 8", 3 lines 14 characters per line; \$50

8" x 8", 6 lines 14 characters per line \$100

12"x 12", 9 lines 17 characters per line \$250

Questions? Contact Linda Davis at (330) 240-4668 or kewpish1@yahoo.com.

Please mail completed form with payment to:

Harriet Taylor Upton Association, PO Box 847, Warren, OH 44482-0847



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