

SPRING ISSUE ■ APRIL 2017



PUBLISHED BY THE UPTON ASSOCIATION, INC.

# UPTON ASSOCIATION *Update*

## *From the President:* Saying Goodbye

*By Marti Flint*

The saying “time goes by quickly when you’re having fun” is so true in describing the last two years of my presidency of this wonderful organization. During this time, the Upton Association has been involved in many activities to further our presence in the historical community.

We also continue our mission “to preserve the memory of Harriet Taylor Upton and her contribution to the women’s political movement in the United States.” This has been made possible through tours of the house by both the school children and adult groups when they learn about Harriet’s life and her importance in the Suffrage Movement.

On Election Day, the garden was filled with those honoring Harriet’s part in the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment as her gravestone was covered with “I Voted” stickers. A reception was held to host a discussion between Harriet and Zell Hart Demming to discuss issues of the time and women’s voting. As you read through this newsletter you can see the various ways our organization has been active in contributing to the community.

I am proud and honored to have been your president and thank all the members for their part in keeping the Association strong. I now hand the gavel to Ken Conklin whose experience will continue to strengthen our mission.

## RSVP FOR SPRING LUNCHEON ON MAY 13

*By Judy Sheridan*

Join us for our annual spring luncheon and speaker on Saturday, May 13 at 12:30 p.m. The lunch will feature the best of the season with taste-tempting treats. The speaker will be Patricia Fertel from Columbus, OH. Her talk will be on *Paper Dolls: Treasures of Childhood*. Patty has been collecting since 1974 and her collection includes antique to contemporary dolls. She also enjoys making her own paper dolls based on fashions from different eras. If you still have some of your paper dolls please bring them to share with us. There is a reservation form on the website [uptonhouse.org](http://uptonhouse.org) and a printed version will be mailed to members. The luncheon is open to all, so bring your friends and introduce them to the Upton House. The cost is \$12 per person.

# CURATOR REPORT

By Sandy Sarsany

Several items were donated since the last newsletter. Pictured are 3 suffrage dolls that were donated by Janet Schweitzer. They are dressed in beautiful white organdy dresses with hair adornments and suffrage sashes. This is a wonderful addition to the museum. Also donated, is a beautiful period tapestry chair by Darlene Bennett; it has been placed in the parlor. A dresser box with mirror and glassware was donated by Ken and Eileen Conklin and are in the upstairs bedroom. The museum has finally added a door, which was re-furbished from a door found in the basement, original to the house. It has a lock, which will provide security for the many artifacts stored there.



# RENTAL REPORT



By Kathy Lepro

In 2016, there were many different types of events held at the beautiful home of Harriet Taylor Upton in downtown Warren, including 17 bridal showers and 21 baby showers. One of those baby showers was in December for my daughter-in-law, who gave birth to our first grandchild, Evelyn Rae Lepro, in February. Our family is blessed!

Good news continues to spread about what a charming facility and how well-equipped Harriet's house is for special gatherings of any kind. Besides being amazed at the beauty of every room inside and the lovely garden outside, those who host events at the Upton House are delighted that the rental costs are reasonable and that there are many extras. In addition to tables and chairs, there are coffee pots, punch bowls, water goblets, luncheon plates, ice cream dishes, dessert plates, and other glassware available at no additional cost. The kitchen also has a stove, a refrigerator, a microwave and dishwasher.

In a previous newsletter, I mentioned something that is worth repeating. The Upton Association does not rent by the hour, but rather "we rent for the event," which is another reason why people like to host a party at 380 Mahoning Avenue. The key is available early if the hostess wants to do all the preparations in advance and then return in time for guests to arrive. When the event is over, the renter must be sure that every room is left in the same excellent condition it was when she first entered the house. Most often it is.

In general, renters respect the house and Harriet Taylor Upton herself, for all her contributions to the Suffrage Movement. They also appreciate the many volunteers who work to make her home the jewel that it is.

This place of distinction and elegance has been available to the community for hundreds of events in the past, and I'm confident its reputation will continue to be the same, if not better, for years to come. Who knows? Maybe Evelyn (our grandchild) will return in the distant future for a bridal shower or a baby shower, and perhaps she will even be the guest of honor!

## Open Houses Planned for summer months

By Judy Sheridan

The Upton house will be open on the first Sunday of June, July and August for visitors. The open houses start at 2 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The theme of the June 4 open house will be CAKE TOPPERS from Sandra Sarsany's collection. Sandy collects all things wedding related. The July 2nd open house will deal with local history and the August 6th theme is under discussion. We hope you will come and visit the house on these special days.

# ~ EDUCATION REPORT ~

*By Liz Clark*

Kids, kids, we love kids. They bring smiles to our faces as we lead them from the Women's Park to the Perkins Mansion, then on to Harriet's Home and last of all the Edward's Home. There is a tremendous amount of good Historic Information taught and learned during the 4th grade Children's Tours. Just watch their faces. We started in October and finished the second week in November. We reminded all of the students that it was Harriet who helped make it possible for their mothers, aunts, and grandmothers to vote in the coming elections.

We had the Adult Leadership Mahoning Valley again this Fall and the Youth Leadership Mahoning Valley this Spring. These students are outstanding 10th graders (a total of 43 this year) in the three counties. Ginnie Baran, Sandee Skovran, Marybeth Roman and Sue Smith conducted these tours.

The Summit Historical Society from Akron toured Perkins Mansion and Upton in October and Newton Falls Red Hatters later.

The Warren Public Library had an Election Day with "Harriet" thanks to Marybeth Roman and Sue Smith.

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society came to Warren to tour our Beautiful Court House. Our well trained docents took the guests (after 5 p.m.) on an amazing look at this great structure. They were rewarded with tickets to the ARMS Museum's Christmas show and a \$200 check for our Endowment Fund.



We are most grateful to our new docents. They learned quickly, took on responsibility, arrived on time and were still smiling. These docents are Vonnie Peterson, Bonnie Williams, Chris Majcher, Jan Schweitzer and Rosemary Sebring.

Our docents and friends helped all four days with Mrs. Claus. In the dark and drizzling rain, Ginnie and I drove to Kinsman. I delivered the usual talk "From the Revolution, to Women's involvement, to Harriet's dedication and then to today's Women. They were invited to come to "Harriet's."

## Membership Report

*By E. Carol Maxwell*

The annual Membership Drive began in late January. We thank all members who have renewed their membership. As of the cut-off date for the Spring newsletter article submission, our current membership stands at 118 members, contributing a total of \$4,250, through the various categories of membership: Single, Friend, and Donor.

To date, \$750 has also been donated to the Upton Endowment Fund. A friendly reminder letter has been sent to members who have not yet renewed their 2017 membership. Please take a moment and send in your membership dues TODAY.

## WOMEN'S PARK: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Spring has Arrived!*

*By Marti Flint*

April Showers bring May flowers. That is certainly true in the Women's Park. Each spring hundreds of daffodils and other bulbs grace the landscape throughout the park. The park is waking up from its winter rest ready to welcome those who enjoy the beauty of the area. Soon many hands will start clearing away signs of that winter's rest and begin the trimming and planting to ready the park for all the summer visitors.

As the weather clears, the park will once more become a destination for weddings, prom and graduation photos and various family events. The bridge is one of the most photographed locations in Trumbull County. A Saturday last summer had six wedding parties waiting their turn for photos on the bridge.

Stop by to smell the flowers and enjoy a relaxing walk in the park.

# Part 18: *Mrs. Upton and Her History Books*

The *Upton Update* continues to tell the story of Harriet Taylor Upton based in part on her autobiography, *Random Recollections*, from which the quotations were taken.

Most libraries in Ohio carry copies of Mrs. Upton's history books and they are considered standard reference works. The first was published in 1909 and is actually entitled, *A Twentieth Century History of Trumbull County Ohio, a Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, its People, and its Principal Interests* (in two volumes) by Harriet Taylor Upton of Warren. Some of the material in this book was taken from an earlier history (a common practice in those days) however she provided much news and original information. The second is simply *History of the Western Reserve* by Harriet Taylor Upton but was published in 1910. At this time in her life, the national headquarters had removed to New York; however the state headquarters was still here.

She writes, "In addition to my suffrage work, I found time (I do not see how I did it either) to do some literary work."

"A Chicago firm, publishing commercial histories, came to Warren and asked me to write a history of Trumbull County. I spent six months gathering material and writing, finished the book in the autumn. It contained nearly six hundred pages, with many illustrations and was a

credible production. It was a subscription book and the edition was early exhausted. In 1926 the *Tribune Chronicle* of Warren, the only daily in the county, reproduced this history in serial form in its column. It ran nearly a year in that paper."

"The year following the appearance of the *Trumbull County History*, the same firm asked me to write a history of the Western Reserve, which is the northeast corner of Ohio, originally belonging to Connecticut. Its history is exceedingly interesting and I was glad of the opportunity to write about it. I therefore spent six months of 1910 in preparing and writing one volume of another subscription history. This publication was likewise exhausted with the first edition and is now (1926) out of print. I often have inquiries for it and a bookseller tells me that he is frequently offered double the price for this first volume but that he seldom can get one to sell. Whatever the shortcomings of these histories may have been, they were carefully indexed and consequently make good books of reference. They are on the shelves of most libraries in Ohio. After an address at the normal school recently, a teacher told me that they used this history as a textbook."

"Whenever my suffrage or political work slackened I lapsed into literature. In 1925 I contributed a monograph to "*Galbreath's History of Ohio in Five Volumes*; which Mr. Galbreath pronounced 'most excellent.'"

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## VOLUNTEER REPORT

*By Marti Flint*

The sun is shining and spring is in the air. Now is a great time to leave the house and try new things! The Upton Association has a variety of ways to get active in the historical community of Warren. Plans are underway for the summer garage sale to be held July 14-15. Much fun is had as all the treasures are sorted, priced and sold by this happy group. For those who like to be outdoors and "dig the dirt" both Harriet's Garden and the Women's Park have many opportunities to help beautify the downtown. Docents are needed to help with the school tours when we show off the historical homes to Warren City School students. We also have groups that tour the house during the year and docents are needed here as well. A committee will be planning special events during the year and many can help with the planning. Thinking far ahead into December Mrs. Claus will be rounding up a group of elves to help with her story time. This is always a fun event.

Consider giving some time to volunteering with us. All are welcome. Call Darlene Bennett (330-609-6108) or Marti Flint (330-772-5623) for information and to sign up.

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## Bricks at the Women's Park

*By Darlene Bennett*

The Women's Park is truly a place of beauty and enjoyment. There are several ways to enjoy the park. You may simply stroll through the park and enjoy the many varieties of trees and bushes, flowers, birds and butterflies. You may even enjoy your lunch hour by reading a book or just relaxing on the park bench. The pathways are lined with inscribed bricks that trail the park. The park offers a beautiful backdrop of many wedding celebrations and private photo sessions.

We take pride in the Women's Park as it is one of only six in the U.S. The walkways and courtyards are filled with inscribed bricks that celebrate the lives of women we love both past and present. You may purchase a brick to honor or in memory of your loved one by obtaining an application form from the Victorian mailbox at the rear of the park or go to [uptonhouse.org](http://uptonhouse.org) for a printable form. There are three sizes to choose from 4x4 (\$50), 8x8 (\$100) or 12x12 (\$250). The brick orders are placed with Warren Marble & Granite Company twice a year and installed in the spring or fall.

In 2016, Jim Bennett installed 27 new bricks: (13-4x4), (10-8x8) and (4-12x12). We have 2 orders pending for the spring of 2017. We are happy that our community continues to enjoy the park.

# Garden Report: Spring is Blooming!

By Carol Olson

Harriet's Garden is thankful to have the following dedicated members: Barbara Beach, Darlene Bennett, Ken and Elaine Conklin, Kathy Ferris, Kay Fisher, Marti and Larry Flint, Pat Proctor, Gussie Reed, Sandy and Paul Sarsany, Phyllis Savakis, Kathy Seemann, Marilyn Thomas, Barbara Rosier-Tryon and Liz Wildman. Thanks also to Lesley Austin and her Girl Scouts who joined us on October 22. Everyone keeps on going like energized bunnies and that is a good thing!



impatiens around the Lady in the Fountain were spectacular. We also tried something new and planted pea vines around the hitching post that became beautifully consumed in its foliage. Everyone working in the garden from April through November helped contribute a total of 253.5 volunteer hours. That does not include when some individuals worked in the garden on their own and did not record the time they spent.

Thank you again to all the wonderful volunteer Garden Committee members. It would cost the Association a fortune to accomplish what you do for free. With all the wonderful comments received from

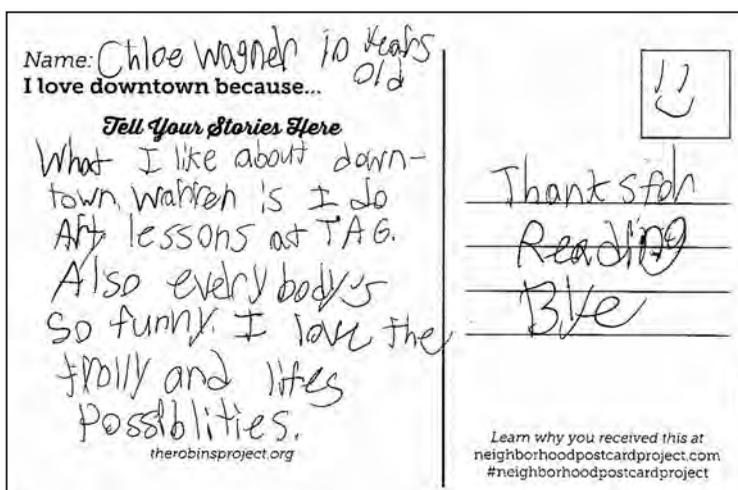
people in the community, your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Harriet's Gardens have been dormant since November when the Garden Committee worked hard to put the gardens to bed on "Make a Difference Day", October 22, but it was necessary to finish the work with two additional days November 1-2. Leaf raking continues to be a large part of the work in the fall on Make a Difference Day. The very late falling leaves are raked thanks to Ken. Marilyn Thomas donated a compost bin that we started to use at the end of the season. Next year, maybe we can try mulching the leaves and putting them into the compost bin. The smaller the material is that is placed in a compost bin, the sooner it makes the "black gold."

*Our Kick-off Luncheon will be held at the Upton House on Tuesday, May 2, beginning at 11:30 a.m.* Come to the luncheon with ideas of what you would like to see growing in Harriet's Gardens in 2017. Sometime in May before planting, we will have to complete spring clean up to prepare the garden for our new plantings. As is the custom, we will pick up plants after Mother's Day and begin planting when the soil temperature is 40-50 degrees. Planting before that happens only delays plant development. We look forward to seeing you in May. Bring your trowel and gloves, we will dig and plant.

Our gardens looked better in 2016 than they did in 2015. The 24"

## THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



By Kay Fisher

This message was written by Chloe Wagner, age 10, on the back of a "Greetings from Warren" postcard. She states how she enjoys downtown Warren, art lessons at TAG, the trolley and life's possibilities. She obviously revisited the Women's Park because she posted the card in the antique mailbox in the Park.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Ken Conklin

The Nominating Committee for the Upton Association consists of Ken Conklin, Marti Flint and Darlene Bennett. The following slate was presented at the April Annual Meeting:

- Ken Conklin, President
- Janet Schweitzer, Vice President
- Ann Miller, Secretary
- Judi Sheridan, Treasurer
- Bonnie Hood, Board Member
- Sandy Mahaffey, Board Member

All officers, current Board Members, and newly elected Board Members will all receive the same salary... \$000.00.



## STORY TIME WITH MRS. CLAUS

By E. Carol Maxwell

I wish everyone could be a “mouse in the corner” during the Story Time with Mrs. Claus events each December. The 2016 story times were filled with wide-eyed children, ages 2½ to 13, all dressed in their special holiday outfits. The 2016 theme was “Be the Light.” The children decorated a foam picture frame decorated with glitter lights to display their individual photo that was taken with Mrs. Claus. Also, they inserted the final six beads into a light-shaped ornament, added a bow and decorated a bag for all the goodies they received. Lots of smiles and hugs were shared with Mrs. Claus, the children and her elf-ette helpers. After a special meal, the children headed home with their activity booklet and decorated holiday cookie, a cookie they couldn’t eat until Mom (or Dad) or Grandma (or Grandpa) said OK. A very special thank you to all the volunteers who made the story times extra special.



## HOUSE REPORT

By Ken Conklin

The big gray house on Mahoning Avenue continues to be one of the jewels in the historic area of Warren. During the winter months, the rentals are not in great demand so maintaining the interior of the House is easier than in the warmer months. General cleaning and paint touch-ups will always be necessary.

I have put together some trivial information for you:

- It has been 19 years since Barbara Bush visited Warren and the Upton House.
- The dining room will hold 50 people at a sit down dinner (crowded but possible).
- We have two original items that belonged to Harriet —
  - ~ Pier mirror in the Parlor
  - ~ Chaise lounge in the upstairs bedroom
- There are 22 doors on the first floor of the Upton House.
- It has been 29 years since the Designers Showcase.
- The window by the piano in the Parlor is a “fool the eye” window. It is not as large as it appears.
- The oil painting of Harriet, which hangs over the Parlor fireplace, was painted by our own Judy Waid.
- Five U.S. Presidents have dined in Harriet’s Home. Their pictures are in the dining room.
- I hope you enjoyed these facts regarding the House on Mahoning Avenue.

We are making plans to switch places in the kitchen for the stove and refrigerator. The position of the stove makes it difficult to open the oven door. We hope that the space will allow this move to be possible. Please visit Harriet’s home often and contact me with any suggestions regarding the House.

# News & Notes

Check out the website [www.uptonhouse.org](http://www.uptonhouse.org) calendar for the latest information on events.

## 2016 CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

By Marti Flint

The Upton house was beautifully decorated for the holiday season and many families and organizations enjoyed hosting events at the house during December. On the evening of December 2nd, over 150 people visited the house to view the decorations and the special display of snowmen. Many of the visitors had never toured the house and were very interested in learning about Harriet and the history of the house. Refreshments were served for all to enjoy. We were part of Christmas on the Square in downtown Warren. The event started with the Mayor reading Christmas stories at City Hall, a parade and trolley rides. Tours of historical homes, cookies stops at businesses on the square and the lighting of the tree completed the fun. Look for our Christmas open house again on the first Friday in December.

## CHRISTMAS / HOLIDAY SALE RECAP; SUMMER SALE IS JULY 14-15

By Susan Stoddart

Since the budget for the summer and fall sales was increased to \$3,500 per year, I thought we would run out of things to sell to raise that kind of money. Wrong! With all our wonderful donors and buyers, we once again surpassed our goal. Also, it would never happen without all of our enthusiastic volunteers who haul stuff to and from the basement, pack and unpack boxes, set up tables, display the treasures, collect the money, and wrap the items sold. Of course, those who chat with the customers are an added benefit. This is a great old house and the more people who learn about it, the better the Association will be.

That said, we have the dates set for the 2017 sales: Summer Sale July 14-15 (set-up starts Tuesday, July 11 and again on July 12) and the Christmas/Holiday Sale will be November 17-18 (Set-up on Monday, November 13 and Tuesday, November 14) so mark your calendars so that you can volunteer a few hours of your time to one or both sales.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

By Judy Sheridan

Income for the calendar year 2016 was \$32,193.62. Major contributors were membership dues, house rentals, donations towards painting the house and a grant from the Raymond J. Wean Foundation used to support school tours. As labor intensive as the garage and Christmas sales tend to be they are also an important contributor to the income. Expenses were \$45,820.96. The major expense in 2016 was house painting that cost \$16,500.00. Utilities and other recurring expenses were all within budget ranges. The funds set aside in the Endowment were \$119,471.29 at the end of the year. Total Upton assets were \$195,769.28 on December 31, 2016.



## TRAGIC NEWS

By Kay Fisher

An historic home on Mahoning Avenue may soon be lost. The small blue-gray fairytale cottage and lot on the corner of Mahoning and Monroe have been purchased by the Warren Public Library for its future expansion. This would be such a loss! First: the Wolcott cottage is the third oldest house on Millionaires Row (Kinsman 1832, Upton 1837, Wolcott circa 1840).

Second: It is probably the only example left in Warren of Steamboat Gothic architecture. Its construction is unique. The siding runs vertical from foundation to roof. The steep roof has a wide overhang and is trimmed with decorative "cut outs" making it look like something out of a fairy tale. I remember driving down Chestnut Street in the 70's and admiring a string of 4 or 5 steamboat Gothic houses lined up in a row.... quaint, picturesque but in decline.

Third: But important to the Uptons, is that the house was a childhood home of Harriet. She was six years old when her family moved to Warren. The family then lived in a Hotel—Boarding House on Courthouse Square. They moved to the Wolcott cottage and Harriet lived there through most of her childhood. Harriet refers to the cottage in *Random Recollections*. "We were at the time living in the house to which we moved from the hotel. It still stands across the street from my present home. It was a pretty Gothic cottage with casement windows."

LORD HAVE MERCY!

What a challenge it has been to preserve Historic Warren.



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