

HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Fall 2019 NEWSLETTER

VOICES FROM THE PAST



Pittsford's Pioneer Burying Ground, at the intersection of Stone Road and Rt. 64, is one of Monroe County's oldest cemeteries.

Established by town fathers Simon and Israel Stone in 1789, the cemetery is the final resting place for many of Pittsford's early farmers and public servants.

Recently, these Pittsford pioneers found their voices again. Under the direction of HP Board member Lori Leitgeb, HP's traditional "Day of the Dead" event received a facelift. Lori gathered together a group of energetic 4th graders who donned period costumes, learned their lines and became one of Pittsford's pioneers for the afternoon.

Online ticketing, marketing and a timed entry enabled more than 130 people to wander the

cemetery and hear the voices of Pittsford's early settlers once again. Members of our deaf community were also able to participate thanks to ASL interpreters.

The weather was cold, but dry and the cider was warm. Visitors lingered around historic maps and books of Pittsford, laid out on tables in the Mile Post school.

It was an event enjoyed by all- especially the kids.

Many thanks to our student actors: Avery Allen, Jackson Barr, Caroline Bogardus, Riya Dixit, Keena Camille, Kenzie Dermody, Natalie Leitgeb, Olivia Pelusio, Ella Rice, Jonah Sander, Rosemary Thompson Stone

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - PRESERVATION MATTERS

Wrapping Up 2019 - Looking Ahead

Dear Historic Pittsford Members and Friends,

2019 was an eventful year for Historic Pittsford (HP) with a major capital campaign, several exciting programs, and some very busy board and community members involved in long term agendas for the future of Pittsford! Thanks to all who have spent so many hours and time articulating the concepts and benefits of historic preservation - concepts that arguably set our community apart from many. Your efforts will positively affect the immediate present and the foreseeable future.

During 2019, HP commemorated the 200th anniversary of the construction of the Little House, our diminutive classic revival headquarters on Monroe Avenue. To date, "The Little House Needs a Little Help" capital campaign has successfully raised \$12K for its repair and restoration. Many thanks to all who participated in kind and/or contributed to this fund raiser, enabling HP to continue to be an example to others as to the best ways to care for historic structures.

On July 18, 2019 the Annual Meeting of the HP membership was held at Kings Bend Park where the old Erie Canal first passed. Among the highlights of the meeting were:

- The election of two new members to the Board of Directors: Paul Whitbeck (Attorney and long-term member of the town's Historic Preservation Board) and Dr. Lori Leitgeb (cultural anthropologist and software business owner). We look forward to their bringing new perspectives to the board and to our impact as an organization.
- The Jean France Scholarship was awarded to Joseph Perry, who is the grandson of renowned architectural historian and one of the founders of HP Jean France, after whom the scholarship is named. Joe was selected as an example of the spirit of the award and his eagerness to perpetuate the stewardship of irreplaceable historic, cultural and natural resources.

The symbolism of the above scholarship award was not lost on many of us, as the appreciation and commitment to historic preservation has been literally and meaningfully passed between generations. In the 54 years since the founding of Historic Pittsford, our community has evolved considerably. One small but powerful constant has been the steady presence of Historic Pittsford and its mission to preserve and protect architectural and cultural resources. It is important to remain vigilant and to continue to find ways to appeal to our evolving community, over which HP has had a tangible impact.

To that end, the Board of Historic Pittsford has determined to devote 2020 to "The Year of the Member" where our programming and organizational focus will be devoted to the retention and expansion of the HP membership. Over the coming year, the Board will develop and begin implementing strategies to bolster our dedicated membership, attract new families and individuals, and adjust our focus accordingly - as our membership is our lifeblood.

As far as other activities throughout 2019, I am pleased to tell you of the progress that is being made within the village and the town governments regarding the community's commitment to the core value of historic preservation. Thanks to the continuous participation by HP members with others in the preparation of both the town and village Comprehensive Plans, the final products incorporate many aspects of preservation perhaps lacking in previous plans. The importance of the conservation and preservation of the agricultural and ecological landscape is also better supported in these Plans.

The coming year promises to be an active one; and of course your input is always welcome.

Best wishes for the coming holidays and the new year...

Peggy

Margaret Caraberis Brizee

President, Historic Pittsford

historicpittsford@gmail.com Attention: Peggy

Little House Office and Museum
18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, NY 14534 / 381-2941
Open: Wednesday and Saturday 9am-12noon
www.HistoricPittsford.com
Dorothy Meusburger, Secretary



A VERY INTERESTING CONNECTION

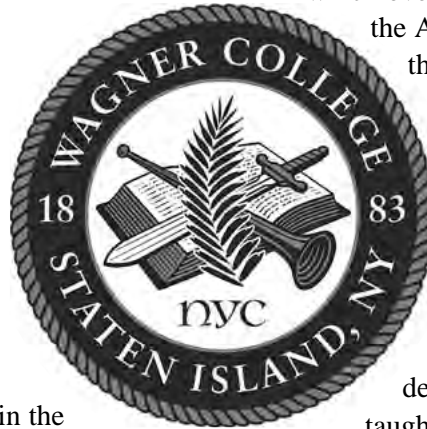
by Audrey Johnson

Once upon a time. . . I am sure you know many stories that begin with those words and mostly they were fairy stories. Well this story is not make believe and involves real people who lived in our community many years ago, who founded a most successful educational institution still alive and vibrant today.

Back in 1883, two ministers collaborated in organizing a Lutheran Proseminary of Rochester, NY. One of those learned men was Rev. George Gomph who was the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church here in our town. Rev. Gomph was very active and involved in Pittsford. Aside from founding that learning institution, he also advised many people on the designing and building of their homes. Almost all of those homes were designed in the shape of a cross which lent itself well to a family's living space.

With six students, housed in the second story of a private home, the school began its mission of preparing future ministers for admission to seminary. Wagner College was named for the benefactor, John Wagner's son, George, who had died before he could realize his goal of becoming a Lutheran minister.

As the school grew in size and reputation, the New York Ministerium, which oversaw the institution, recognized the need for a new home for Wagner and a former pastoral student, who had served in a church on Staten Island was able to purchase 38 acres on picturesque Grymes Hill which overlooks New York Harbor, Manhattan and the Atlantic Ocean. Wagner College is housed there on that beautiful acreage.



Now this story gets even more intriguing.

Wagner College has recently installed its 19th president, by the name of Joel Martin whose wife is named Jan. She attended Pittsford schools and was graduated from one of them. She was then Jan de Ubl and after finishing her degree at University of Pennsylvania, she taught science at West Irondequoit High School.

Jan then went on to further her education and began teaching on a Navaho Reservation. She is dedicated to getting students involved with the sciences, technology, engineering, art, and math. A project called STEAM.

So the connection of Wagner College to Pittsford extends from 1883 right up the present and just like many stories, this one has a happy and interesting ending.



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the **Pittsford Garden Club** for funding the Little House gardens! And a special thank you to Master Gardener Sue Julien for her creative work on the gardens.

Thank you to **Duane Schenk** (owner of the former Country Corners) for the stunning flower pots he created to beautify the front porch of the Little House.

Many, many thanks to **Mike Nichting of Regain Physical Therapy** for his wonderful in kind support and ideas for "The Little House Needs a Little Help" campaign!

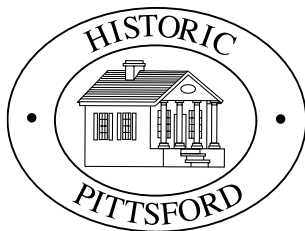
"Like" us on Facebook!
Visit us at: www.historicpittsford.com

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE LITTLE HOUSE

Historic Pittsford's Little House is a great place to shop for the holidays. We sell a special edition Pittsford sweatshirt, numerous books on local history, limited edition puzzles of the Pittsford area and note cards. We also sell a beautiful poster of the historic barns in Pittsford. Stop by Wednesdays or Saturdays from 9 to noon, give us a call at 381-2941 or visit us on Candlelight night on Tuesday, December 3 from 5:30- 8pm.

SHOP AT AMAZON, SUPPORT HISTORIC PITTSFORD

You can support Historic Pittsford and shop for the holidays at the same time! When shopping on Amazon, log onto <https://smile.amazon.com>, choose Historic Pittsford as your charitable organization and shop! 5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to Historic Pittsford. Remember us as you do all of your holiday shopping!



18 MONROE AVENUE
PITTSFORD, NY 14534

2019/2020

HP Board of Directors

President: Margaret Caraberis Brizee

Vice-President: Bonnie Salem

Secretary: JoAnne Shannon

Treasurer: Suzanne W. Shaw

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T. Peter Brizee

Tom Cummings

Mark Greene

Karen Hultz

Audrey M. Johnson

Lori Leitgeb

David Minor

Shelley O'Brien

Deborah Resch

Paul Whitbeck

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Tuesday, December 3, 2019;
5:30-8pm**

Candlelight Night in Pittsford Village

**Sunday, December 15, 2019;
2pm**

HP Program - **Christmas in Colonial Williamsburg**, at Pittsford Library

Sunday, February 2, 2020

HP Fun-raiser, meet-and-greet at Via Girsasole (details to follow)

Sunday, February 9, 2020; 2pm

HP Program - **Buffalo Soldiers**, at Pittsford Library

**Check the HP website for details as available
(www.historicpittsford.com)**

