


The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Volume 51 Issue 4
Spring 2024

Inspiration through Heritage since 1875

2024 Historic Preservation Awards



Mahoning Valley Historical Society has been committed to preserving the history of the people of this community for nearly 150 years. We invite you to help us continue this proud tradition. Nominated projects must have been completed by March 1, 2024. Awards will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility, please email Lindsay Samblanet at lsamblanet@mahoninghistory.org

UNDERWRITTEN BY

**SCHWEBEL FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

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FROM THIS DIRECTION by Bill Lawson

MVHS Receives Grant from Ohio History Fund

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Mary Ann Richards, *Bookkeeper*
Chelsea Hess, *Archives Assistant*
Jason Trickett, *Building & Grounds Supervisor, Tyler History Center & IBM Building*



Taking part in the presentation of the \$19,000 Ohio History Fund grant to MVHS are: Megan Wood, Executive Director and CEO of Ohio History Connection; Jessica Trickett, MVHS Collections Manager; and Bill Lawson, MVHS Executive Director.

The transition into ownership of the former IBM Building by Mahoning Valley Historical Society continued throughout the winter months. During the week of March 11th, collections management staff and professional movers completed the first phase of a project to relocate artifacts stored in the attic and closets of Arms Family Museum, and basement of the Arms Carriage House, to the third floor of the IBM Building. The first phase greatly reduced the pressure in the attic spaces as most objects and boxes stored on the floors were moved out.

The MVHS staff and Board were elated to learn in March that the Historical Society will receive a 2024 Ohio History Fund Grant of \$19,000 to fund in part phase two of the relocation project! The Ohio History Fund is a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. Annual donations to the Ohio History Fund make this program possible. For more information, please visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund.

Megan Wood, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ohio History Connection, and Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund and Outreach Manager for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of O.H.C., were in Youngstown recently to

present the grant award to MVHS. Jessica Trickett, Collections Manager, organized all phases of the artifact relocation project, and compiled and wrote the successful grant application.

Work on Phase Two, which will include moving more than 6,800 objects from Arms Family Museum campus to the IBM Building on East Federal Street, will be completed this summer.

As noted elsewhere in this edition of Historical Happenings, MVHS members will have their first opportunity to see the interior of the IBM Building, including the developing collections storage center on the third floor, during the Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. The meeting will include dinner, the election of Board members, and progress reports on programs and institutional priorities. Following the business meeting, recipients of the 2024 Historic Preservation Awards will be honored.



Phase One of the Artifact Relocation project at Arms Family Museum campus resulted in quite a bit of open floor space in the attic of Arms Family Museum.



Have you taken our survey? Please scan the QR code and answer a few brief questions about MVHS. Your feedback will help us move into the future!

We Want Your Input!

Evenings at the Ritz



Advertising Cover produced for the Ritz Bar and printed by Abdou Co. of Pittsburgh, PA. MVHS Acc. No. 2024.25.59



Nightlife of a community is always a topic of interest. Recently, MVHS received a donation of materials that included items documenting a popular venue. The Ritz Bar was located at 748-750 Wilson Avenue and started with humble beginnings, but quickly evolved into much more. The 1944 city directory, when mentioning the Ritz Bar, reads, "night club, wine, whiskey and beer." Begun in the 1930s by William M. Cafaro, later joined by his brother John A. Cafaro, the venue grew and boasted visits from the Glenn Miller Band and the Tommy Dorsey Band. Legendary food, great atmosphere and the best of entertainment made the Ritz the place to be.*

*For more information about the Ritz Bar, please check out *Classic Restaurants of Youngstown* by Thomas Welsh and Gordon F. Morgan, published in 2014. A special thank you to donor Margaret Napoli.



Some of the faces behind the Ritz Bar's success. Left to Right: Flora Cafaro, Helen Cafaro, Bill Pfeiffer's mother and father, Theresa Sandy, Bill Pfeiffer, and Tony Cafaro. MVHS Acc. No. 2024.25.59



Tony Cafaro at the Ritz Bar. MVHS Acc. No. 96.64.8



The Mixologist Staff at the Ritz Bar, 4 Nov 1946. From Left to Right: Jim Napoli, Vito Bell, Joe Galose, Joe DeVolio, Jim Carney, and John Digiacomo. MVHS Acc. 2024.25.60



Cookie Table & Cocktails

Once again, the cookies were the stars of the show at the 12th annual *Cookie Table and Cocktails* event, held on Saturday, February 24 at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church's Assumption Social Center. A sellout crowd of 400 enjoyed great music, amazing food, and the atmosphere of a Youngtown wedding. Cookie Table and Cocktails has raised over \$190,000 since its inception in 2013 for various projects and programs at MVHS.



Join Us and Make History!

Thank you for supporting MVHS through your membership. As a member, you are an important part of Mahoning Valley Historical Society. Working together, we are able to collect, preserve, and teach the history of the people of the Mahoning Valley, and meet challenges and opportunities that come up on a regular basis. We hope you remain with us. Your loyalty sustains us as we expand and grow.

Your membership benefits include free, unlimited admission to both Arms Family Museum and Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center, discounts on select programs, free staff-conducted research in the Archives Resource Center and Stewart Media Archives, and discounts in the museum shops. If you are a Preservation Society member, you provide a higher level of support to MVHS and receive additional benefits.

If you are a current member of the Historical Society, you will receive a renewal notice in early May. If you are not yet a member, we would love to have you join us! You can sign up online at www.mahoninghistory.org, or call Linda Kostka in the Development Department at 330.743.2589 ext. 125 and give us your information over the phone.

Save the Date for the MVHS Annual Meeting & Historic Preservation Awards

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 25, 2024, when we will celebrate the successes that you helped us achieve at the 149th MVHS Annual Membership Meeting. The event will be held at the newly-acquired IBM Building on Youngstown's east end, where members will get a first look at the building, hear about our renovation plans, and take a look at the artifacts we have stored there.

The evening will also include the annual Historic Preservation Awards, given to outstanding nominees in the categories of Community Revitalization, Commercial Revitalization, and Awards of Achievement. If you know of an outstanding project, you can find the award criteria, nomination form, and list of past winners at www.mahoninghistory.org/historic-preservation-awards. The Historic Preservation Awards are underwritten by the Schwebel Family Foundation.

Invitations to this members-only event will be in the mailed in mid-May.



The MVHS Annual Fund

Thank you to those who help keep history alive with a contribution to the MVHS Annual Fund. Your support is critical to our mission! (Gifts received from January 1, 2024 through March 17, 2024.)

Dr. & Mrs. George Beelen
 Marcia Buchanan
 Mary Lou Budziak
 Dolores A. Combs
 Nicholas & Silvia DuBos
 John Marino
 Rev. Thomas McCarthy
 Peter Morabito
 Mary Lou Musitano
 Diane Reinke
 John Rochford
 Janis Seidler
 Samie Winick
 Mr. and Mrs. John H. Yerian Jr.



Behind the Scenes: Servants of Greystone

We all know the story of Olive and Wilford Arms, but has anyone ever wondered about the domestic servants who played a vital role in their lives?

In the years following the completion of their home, Greystone, in 1905, Olive and Wilford hired several individuals of diverse backgrounds to help care for the three-story house and tend to their personal needs. These individuals filled positions such as housekeeper, butler, maid, cook, waiter/waitress, gardener, chauffeur, and chambermaid. In the duration of their employment, some of the servants resided at Greystone with their families. The cook and the chauffeur lived in the carriage house, while the maids occupied a two bedroom and one-bathroom space on the second floor of the main house. After Wilford's death in 1947, Olive continued to employ domestic servants for assistance. At the time of her own death in 1960, her staff consisted of the chauffeur, a cook, and one maid. Although they worked behind the scenes, the Arms' servants made their mark in Greystone's history.



A view of the Arms's carriage house porch, which was located on the southwest corner, 1980. The porch would have been used by the servants.



Arms's black cotton maid's uniform with long sleeves and detachable collar and cuffs, c. 1920s. Fine white cotton apron with small bib formed by wide shoulder straps, rick-rack trimming.

On Friday, April 5, the new exhibit, *Behind the Scenes: The Servants of Greystone*, opened in the second floor hallway of Arms Family Museum. Learn all about who the Arms' servants were, where they came from, and what their jobs were. The exhibit also discusses the general responsibilities of domestic servants, labor laws that impacted domestic servants, factors that influenced the rise and fall of the employment of domestic servants in the country, and statistics on the number of domestic servants employed in Youngstown and the United States from 1900-1960.



The original keys to Greystone, which would have been carried by the butler. The key ring includes a key labeled for the fruit cellar, which was in the basement, the ice room, and Katharine Arms's house, which was a few stops south of Greystone on Wick Avenue.

And the Winner Is...



Congratulations to the 2024 Cookie Table & Cocktails Baker Winners

Best Decorated Cookie: Sugar Cookie by Carolyn Jones
Best Use of a Unique Ingredient: Lavender Latte by Abbey Eash
Best Cherry Inspired Cookie: Cherry Cheesecake Tarts by Ashley Roberts
Best Traditional Cookie: Amish Sugar Cookie – Catherine Fulcher

Professional Division

Honorable Mention: Taro Shortbread by Stacey Adger, Stacey's Sweet Treats
3rd Place: Buckeyes by Heather DeLucia, Heather Lynn's Buckeyes
2nd Place: Blackberry Rum Gingerbread by Stacey Adger, Stacey's Sweet Treats
1st Place: Cookie Dough Clothespins by Donna Carbon

Amateur Division

Honorable Mention: Kolachi by Lynn Maro
3rd Place: Salted Caramel Tarts by Nancy Zatchok
2nd Place: White Chocolate Pistachio Cookies by Sherri LaRosa
1st Place: Cherry Cheesecake Cookie by Tysa Egleton



Samual Manning

MVHS was part of this year's History Day regional competition at YSU and presented the Local History Award to Samuel Manning, 7th grader at Holy Family in Poland for his paper "The Little Steel Strike of 1937 in the Mahoning Valley Short Term Defeat Leads to Long Term Victory for Labor." Congratulations Samuel!

BITES AND BITS OF HISTORY

PRESENTED BY
THE JOHN AND
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FOUNDATION

Bites and Bits of History lunchtime programs are held at noon on the third Thursday of each month at Tyler History Center.

The Political Transformation of David Tod

Joseph Lambert,
Local Author



April 18, 2024

Explore David Tod's career from his days as a local attorney to his time as Ohio's Governor in the first years of the Civil War. Author Joseph Lambert's "The Political Transformation of David Tod" chronicles Tod's unwavering support for the Union and describes the importance of one politician's loyalty to country over partisanship.

Connecting Youngstown: 19th Century Canals/ 21st Century Trails

Jacob Harver,
Local Historian



May 16, 2024

With the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, the Ohio & Erie Canal in 1832, and the P&O Canal in 1840, Youngstown became connected to a national network and economy that put it on the map and set the stage for its industry. Today a new national network of hike and bike trails is emerging, of which the Mahoning Valley is currently a significant gap. This talk will explore transportation, history, and culture and how place through connectivity helps shape communities.

Ten Cent Beer Night: A Date Which Will Live in Infamy

Vince Guerrieri
Local Author



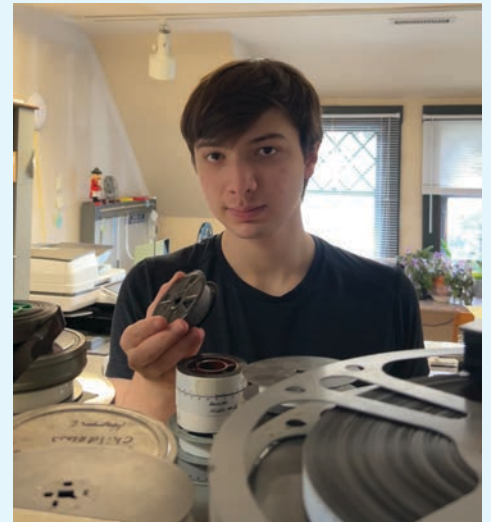
June 20, 2024

The Indians hosted the Texas Rangers on June 4, 1974. It was supposed to be a run-of-the-mill Tuesday night game. But it turned into one of the most infamous games in baseball history. A rare combination of bad blood between the two teams, a promotion that was ill-advised in retrospect and a full moon led to a night that ended in a forfeit and disaster.

Meet Vito Colella, SMAC Intern

Stewart Media Archives Center welcomes Vito Colella, our Youngstown State University Archival Intern. Vito is working with MVHS during the 2023-2024 Spring Semester. Vito is a 2022 Cardinal Mooney High School graduate, and is currently in his Sophomore year at YSU. He is working toward a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Science Information Technology, and his internship fulfills a graduation requirement.

In the coming year, Vito hopes to get another internship related to his field of study, and plans to aim his degree toward cyber-security. Vito's diligence and hard work have made a big difference in our film collection. We appreciate his time and efforts to help us keep our collections organized and complete.



Vito finds his internship assignments for S.M.A.C to be very interesting. He enjoys looking at the film and working with the equipment. Currently, he is putting news film stories onto correct reels, and fixing any bad splices that he finds. He is also timing the length of the stories, and adding additional information regarding the film to our database.



Samantha Sloan, a YSU senior majoring in Art Education, examines a collection of Arms Family sterling cutlery.

MVHS is collaborating with a group of YSU students enrolled in the ART 4880J: *Arts for the Table* spring semester course who are curating an exhibit for Tyler History Center's Youngstown Foundation Community History Gallery. The exhibit, titled "Arts for the Table," will open Tuesday, May 14.

Each of the twenty art history students, led by Dr. Johnathan Farris, has chosen a theme relating to the customs and objects used for dining. They've researched the MVHS collection, as well as private collections, finding objects that tell the story of how dining has evolved over time. From the everyday – plates, cutlery, and platters, to the less common – salts, celery vases, and pickle dishes, the exhibit will celebrate the art of the dining experience. "Arts for the Table" will remain open through Sunday, August 18.



Johnathan Farris and his students explore the Community History Gallery, strategizing for the best exhibit layout and presentation.

YSU Students Learn the Art of Dining



Monday, April 8: Belgium
5:00 pm- 7:30 pm
Tyler History Center

Monday, May 6: England
5:00 pm- 7:30 pm
Western Reserve United
Methodist Church

Monday, June 3: Serbia
5:00 pm- 7:30 pm
Holy Trinity Serbian
Orthodox Church

Monday, August 5: Yemen
5:00 pm- 7:30 pm
Location TBD

Monday, October 7: Hispanic
5:00 pm- 7:30 pm
Location TBD



648 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44502

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society celebrates the history of the people of the Mahoning Valley.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

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Tuesday-Sunday
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44502

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Thank You to our 2024 Cookie Table & Cocktails Sponsors!

MVHS would like to thank our sponsors for another successful Cookie Table & Cocktails event. This year's event consisted of over 400 people, 90 bakers, and 9,000 cookies!

Wedding Planner

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Thank you!

