



July–September 2019

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## The Greater Milford Area Historical Society

### Membership Matters

We would like to welcome our new members to the Society!

Kevin Moran and Tom Brown joined us in April. Phillip and Liz Taylor, Wade Newhouse, Erik Tholking and Jim and Phyllis Cafferky joined us in May. And in June, Helen Hurley joined. Welcome!

If you have forgotten to renew your membership for 2019, please accept this reminder and send in your membership form and payment soon. You may also join at MilfordHistory.net/about/membership via PayPal or credit card. Reminders have been sent out through July.

Every member matters!

We have begun a campaign to bring in new members by sending out postcards to people who have visited Promont or GMAHS activities with a

### Docent & Volunteer News

By Marti Kleinfelter

The new docent handbook & guidebook is complete! All active docents will receive their own, personal copy, and volunteers will find copies located in the kitchen, gift shop, and on the sign-in desk at the front door.

A huge Thank You to all who helped research, add infor-

personal invitation to become a member. Please invite your friends, as well, to participate in the activities of the Greater Milford Area Historical Society and consider membership.

Pavers ordered in 2018 & early 2019 were installed this spring! Visit Promont and stroll the walkway by the gazebo to see yours and others installed over the years.

Membership meetings will not be held in the months of July and August, and will resume on September 5th, 6:30pm, at the offices of Sibcy Cline in Mulberry Square shopping center.

Local Historian Gary Knepp will join us and present "Lincoln & Slavery"

A pot luck meal is provided, please bring a dish to share if you will be joining us for the meal.

mation, and compile the book.

If you are interested in volunteering, or learning about the areas available for volunteers, please call Marti at 513-404-8172

### Go Fund Me Update

Thank you to all who have donated to the Go Fund Me!

Our fund is still active and we are still in need! We have raised about \$10K so far, and put that money right to work removing the balconettes from the tower, preserving all pieces we could.

We still have tower work, roof work, interior work, and foundation work to look forward to. We are applying for any grants/funds we come across, but most require a 'local match' of funds to qualify.

Please continue to donate and/or share our campaign if you are able! Thank You!

[www.gofundme.com/historic-promont](http://www.gofundme.com/historic-promont)



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**Get In Touch!**

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513-248-0324



Thank You to Lovins Insurance for your ongoing support of GMAHS & Art Affaire!

**Special Event/Collection News**

By Diana Kuhell & Paris Bowers

Last newsletter, we shared about the recent addition to our collection of paintings and handmade items created by Milford artist Holly Lasley, donated by her husband Louis Lasley before his passing.

In a couple weeks, GMAHS, in partnership with Row House Gallery, present **"85 Years of Local Art at the Promont Museum"** on Saturday, August 3rd from 10am-4pm and Sunday, August 4th from 1pm-4pm. \$5 admission fee.

About 30 pieces of art will be on display, created exclusively by Milford artists! Our spotlight artist is Holly Lasley, but we will also showcase works from Milford artists such as William Fay, Jean Shaw, Enno Meyer, John Glancy, Helen Gatch, Milford Pottery, and more! Select works will be offered for sale & we accept cash & credit cards. Light refreshments will be offered.

We hope you will join us in celebrating the rich artistic history of our small city by sharing about and attending this local artist event!

Special Thanks to Collections Coordinator Diana Kuhnell, summer intern Paris Bowers, and Row House Gallery for all their work in organizing this special event!

Pictured Below: A sneak peek of "Rouster's Apple Stand" by Holly Lasley and "The Milford Baking Company" by William Fay



**Art Affaire**

By the Art Affaire Committee

The Committee is in full swing preparing for the September 28th event held in historic Downtown Milford.

**We announced the 2019 Poster Image Contest winner!** Milford area artist Kate Albert holds the honor this year of having her work used as the foundation of the Art Affaire Poster, all marketing

materials, plus takes home the \$1000 prize, offered by the exclusive poster contest sponsor, The City of Milford. (See images below). Kate's work is a depiction of Art Affaire, done in acrylics. Congratulations to Kate Albert!

We have over 110 artists accepted to this year's show, but **we still have room for more** in the categories of wood, sculpture, metalwork, basketry,

drawing, digital art, glass, & printmaking. If you know of any artists in these fields, please encourage them to go to [MilfordHistory.net/artaffaire](http://MilfordHistory.net/artaffaire) to apply!

**Reminder:** Volunteers are always needed and are what makes Art Affaire the amazing local art show it is! If you would like to help out, please get in touch with Donna at [damann@milfordhistory.net](mailto:damann@milfordhistory.net) or



Pictured at left is Kate Albert's winning image, painted in acrylic, 'Art Affaire, Milford, OH'

This image will be used in the 2019 Art Affaire poster, as well as other marketing materials.

Posters will be \$10 and available at Art Affaire and Promont.

If you are interested in the Print Only, we have a couple at Promont available for sale, and

they are numbered and signed; Kate is donating a portion of the proceeds from this print back to GMAHS!

## Promont Events

By Kim Phipps, CEP, CQEP

2019 is proving to be a busy year for Promont Events and I am so excited! We have numerous weddings and showers planned throughout the year and more inquiries coming in every week! It is so exciting to be able to support Promont and GMAHS through joyous celebration!

**On July 27th, from 10am-6pm, we will be hosting our 2nd Annual Ooh La La! Bridal Boutique at Promont.** At this free event brides-to-be will have the opportunity to stroll the Promont parlors, dining room, and grounds and Say Yes! to Their Dress as they shop new & gently used gowns, dresses, & accessories that are priced affordably.

We have already received a number of gowns, bridesmaid dresses, and accessories both on consignment and as donations. Via consignment, 20% of the purchase price of gowns & accessories will go directly back to Promont/GMAHS! If you have a dress, gown, or other accessories you would like to sell through the Boutique, please get in touch via email at [info@promontevents.com](mailto:info@promontevents.com)

## The Beechtree Circle

The most recent Beechtree Circle event was a baby shower for Ashley. Celebrating at Promont has become a tradition for this family! Both Ashley and her sister have had their bridal shower and baby shower with us! We are so grateful for the loyalty of this wonderful family. The Shives family has asked I convey a special thanks to the Beechtree Circle for their attentive service at this event. As a token of their esteem, the mother of the honoree gave an additional \$50 donation for our repairs fund!



We have events booked into the Christmas season when the theme will be "Victorian Splendor". Our Promont Design Group is working weekly on one-of-a-kind decorations to use in the display and to offer for sale during the holidays.

We hope you will consider booking an event in our lovely Promont. Your afternoon tea will support our cause in maintaining

The Boutique will also feature samples from our Preferred Vendor network of caterers & bakeries. We will also have a seamstress on hand to assist shoppers in finding their perfect fit, and, **NEW** this year we are opening up the Boutique to a select number of vendors to set up booths and offer their goods & services related to all things weddings!

We are holding a raffle again this year with prizes such as gift certificates for catering services, dj services, photography, hair & nails, and gift baskets full of goodies! Keep an eye on the Promont Events Facebook page to see what prizes we have, as well as what vendors will be on site, and more. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at Promont Wed-Fri during business hours, as well as on Sundays from 1-4pm, and the day of the event. Please Share & Tell your friends!!

[PromontEvents.com](http://PromontEvents.com)

[Facebook.com/promontevents](https://Facebook.com/promontevents)

and preserving our beautiful gem on the hill; and it would be the Beechtree Circle's pleasure to serve you and your guests.

We would like to also extend our gratitude and thanks to Carolyn Nicholson and Kathy Camry (resident Beechtree Circle artist) for their fantastic organization of the Promont kitchen! Everything now has its place - from the cutlery to the salt & pepper - with large lettered signs to indicate these locations.

We would like to thank John Bradford for the new shelf over the stove and Sue Bradford for her organization of the linens in the dining room.

If you have an occasion to use the Promont kitchen, please return all items used to their proper place and make sure all cabinet doors are firmly closed. We appreciate your assistance in keeping these areas organized and accessible for all volunteers.

If you would like to book an event or inquire about volunteering with the Beechtree Circle, please contact me at [mbenoski@hotmail.com](mailto:mbenoski@hotmail.com)

Thank You,

Mary Ann Benoski

## Promont Design Group



By Sharan Hinkle

The Promont Design Group (PDG) was created 18 months ago as an offshoot of the Beechtree Circle. It has slowly evolved as needs became apparent. There are currently 18 members in PDG who meet the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month at 10am, at Promont. The goal of PDG is to fund & create the annual Holiday display, with any overage in funds going back to GMAHS.

The Promont Holiday display is already a unique & treasured tradition, however, some members felt that a more focused effort on these displays would make the Promont Christmas display something that cannot be found anywhere else in Clermont County! We also feel this additional effort will encourage more groups to schedule Teas, tour Promont during the

holidays, and encourage holiday weddings. We have learned there will be Bus Tours touring our 'Victorian Splendor' display this year! We will set up our display in October to accommodate these November tours, as well as to provide additional time for Holiday Teas & other events.

The more beautiful the display, the more people will be exposed to Promont, thereby fulfilling our mission of preserving & educating the public on the history of our beautiful gem on the hill!

As the Design Group has come together, members have initiated major efforts of organization & fundraising specific to the Holiday displays. We felt it unacceptable to take money from GMAHS or its members to subsidize the displays.

An example of our independent funding efforts are last year's custom ballet slippers, which were the basis for our Nutcracker Christmas display. Sixty slippers, donated by Mary Beth Schell, were then designed and decorated by Sharan Hinkle & Nancy Chappelle, then offered for sale during Promont tours & events.

Thanks to these funds, PDG was able to purchase two low-heat spotlights, a new Frontgate Christmas Tree, eleven wreaths, & is also paying for additional supplies for both last year's & this year's display & sales projects.

The past 18 months also brought major organizational efforts. Carolyn Nicholson initiated the effort to sort & organize all supplies on hand in both the Promont attic and basement, with a dedicated group giving their time & money in purchasing clear bins & labels, sorting, and inventorying.

In addition, Donna arranged Eagle Scout/Troop assistance in the design & construction of shelving in the basement, with funding provided by GMAHS members Rob & Lyn Carter. John Bradford completed the project, as well as assisted in organizing PDG sections of the basement. Upon seeing the results, other members were inspired to continue the organization efforts in other areas of the basement, as well! The hours devoted to these efforts are many and span months - A huge Thank You to ALL!

The design & creation of the many components of this year's Victorian Splendor is well underway, with both PDGers and the public helping out.

Kathy Camry has designed the logo (in our section header above) for our gift tags. Mary Spurling, Carolyn Jones, Sue Bradford, and Sharan Hinkle are creating Victorian Christmas Stockings to be used throughout Promont. And all members of the PDG have created ornaments, gift pockets, and are working on wreaths to be used in the holiday display and/or to be sold to offset the cost of future displays.

**Supplies needed this year, which can't be bought, are:** trims, rhinestones, old jewelry/baubles, fringe, old buttons, ornaments, and Christmas picks. If you have any of these items you could donate, please drop off to Promont marked to the Attn: Sharan Hinkle.

We encourage anyone with an artistic or crafting ability to join our happy band of volunteers! We charge no membership fee & participation is 100% voluntary.

***Please contact Sharan Hinkle at [sharanhinkle@yahoo.com](mailto:sharanhinkle@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining the Promont Design Group. Thank You!***

## The Dish from Donna

For questions or concerns about any of the following items, contact Donna at damann@milfordhistory.net or at 513/248-0324

Want to get involved in GMAHS History Groups? Here are some options for you!

### Historical Society Meetings

The Greater Milford Area Historical Society meets eight times a year, with the exception of January/February and July/August, at the Sibcy Cline offices in Mulberry Square Shopping Plaza in Miami Township. Monthly meetings begin at 6:30pm and include a covered dish dinner and social time, followed by a brief Society news update and a historical presentation. Historical topics are of general historical interest.

**Upcoming speakers** include local historian Gary Knepp, who will speak on "Lincoln & Slavery" on Thursday, September 5th; and our local metal detector, Levi Durst of Historical Hands, who will speak on metal detecting while sharing some of his recent local finds on Thursday, October 3rd.

Members and their invited guests are welcome to attend these meetings at no cost. If you wish to partake of the meal, you are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

### History Readers Book Club

Our History Readers group has been meeting regularly since April 2010! Many members have been in the group since our first gathering here on the porch at Promont and we have added some great members over the years.

We have read and discussed many great books and have learned some great history along the way. We have taken road trips and hosted guest speakers to enhance our reading experiences. The group also supports GMAHS activities and has installed a Little Free Library which continues to get steady use. While we all enjoy reading, we truly enjoy getting together to discuss the book of the month and many other things that may come up.

***We meet the First Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Promont. Book Club is Free and all are welcome to join us!***

### Upcoming Reads:

August 6th - ***Chains*** by Laurie Halse Anderson  
September 3rd - ***Educated*** by Tara Westover

Complete 2019 book list and brief topic summaries can be found on the Book Club Page of our website.

### Cemetery Studies Group

Our newest history group is our Cemetery Studies group and we have gotten off to a fantastic start! We have 6-8 very enthusiastic members who are eager to learn more about cemeteries and have some "hands-on" cemetery experience.

One of our initial goals will be to get local Greenlawn Cemetery on the Historic Registry. Virginia Critchell had started this project before her passing and we would really like to see it completed. The application is pretty well ready to be re-submitted once we get a couple things completed, one being a distinct marker denoting Reverend and Mary Gatch's burial site. The City of Milford has agreed to assist us with this project. Another requirement is the creation of a new brochure indicating the significant, historical burial plots within Greenlawn, as well as other history within the cemetery. These projects are in process with a target completion date of Fall 2019.

Our group has already gathered much new information about local burials. GMAHS is providing a group of great East Milford folks with information on the history of the I.O.O.F. cemetery at Carriage Way Park. This group of residents recently volunteered their time and cleaned up that little location. They are excited about learning more of this historical site and we will send them a lovely Thank You note for their clean-up efforts!

Our group has also discovered a wonderful historical connection with the Mt. Washington Cemetery through GMAHS member Joyce Snell. We are planning a visit to that site and the Mt. Washington cemetery has asked us to partner with them in sharing information regarding the discovered McCormick connection.

***Cemetery Studies meet the last Thursday of the month at 10:30 am at Promont. The group is Free and Open to All!***

### Did You Know?

Did you know Promont has a "pawpaw patch"? These small trees are growing under the larger trees on the right side of the sidewalk as you are walking from the parking area towards the front of the house.

This is the biggest crop of them I have ever seen here at Promont. Come by and check them out! They are located behind a bed of leatherleaf ferns and beautiful helleborus (Lenten Rose).

With leaves and branches that deer avoid, and fruit that is loved by all, the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is a fascinating native tree. It the only local member of a large, mainly tropical fruit plant family (Annonaceae), and produces the largest edible native fruit to North America. Pretty neat! (National Park Service)

## GMAHS Calendar of Events July-September 2019

Date & Time	Event	Details
<b>July 2019</b>		
Month of July	The Greater Milford Area Historical Society does not meet in July	Enjoy your summer vacation!
July 2 - 6:30PM	History Readers at Promont FREE – Open to Public	“ <b>America’s First Daughter</b> ” by Laurie Kamoie & Stephanie Dray
July 10 – 6:30PM	GMAHS Board meeting	At Promont
July 11 Noon-1PM	Brown Bag Lunch	Rowe Arboratum 4600 Muchmore Rd., Indian Hill Presenter: Sally Heckscher <b>BRING LAWN CHAIR</b>
July 12, 10:30 - 2	Promont Design Group	Promont – bring a lunch and join us. Contact: Sharan at sharanphinkle@yahoo.com
July 25 – 10:30-Noon	GMAHS Cemetery Studies FREE – open to the Public	Promont – Discussion led by Ann Fritsch on History Channel DVD “Modern Marvels – Cemeteries”
July 26, 10:30-2	Promont Design Group	Promont – bring a lunch and join us. Contact: Sharan at sharanphinkle@yahoo.com
July 27 10-6PM	OH la la Bridal Boutique at Promont	PromontEvents.com second bridal show and sale. Gowns/dresses for sale, local wedding vendors, raffle
<b>August 2019</b>		
Month of August	The Greater Milford Area Historical Society does not meet in August	Have a safe and happy summer!
August 3 – 10 to 4 August 4 – 1 to 4	Local Art Show featuring Milford artists from the past	Over a dozen artists will have works on display during this 2-day event <b>\$5 admission</b>
August 6 - 6:30PM	History Readers at Promont FREE – Open to Public	“ <b>Chains</b> ” by Lori Hoff Andron
August 8, Noon to 1	Brown Bag Lunch at American Legion Post 450-Milford	111 Victor Stier Drive – Discussion by “Four Old Guys” <b>BRING LAWN CHAIR</b>
August 9, 10:30-2	Promont Design Group	Promont – bring a lunch and join us. Contact: Sharan at sharanphinkle@yahoo.com
August 22, 10:30-Noon	GMAHS Cemetery Studies FREE – open to the Public	Promont – Discussion on Greenlawn Cemetery
August 23, 10:30-2	Promont Design Group	Promont – bring a lunch and join us. Contact: Sharan at sharanphinkle@yahoo.com
August 30, 9 - 3	FALL – Workday at Promont	Volunteers and Community Service workers
<b>September 2019</b>		
September 3, 6:30PM	History Readers at Promont FREE – Open to Public	“ <b>Educated</b> ” by Tara Westover
September 5, 6:30PM Program at 7PM	Regular meeting of the Greater Milford Area Historical Society	Resume monthly meetings scheduled at Sibcy-Cline office at Mulberry Square 1077 St. Rt. 28 Suite #111. Speaker – Gary Knepp “Lincoln and Slavery”
September 11, 6:30PM	GMAHS Board of Trustees meeting	At Promont – last regularly scheduled meeting for 2019 - year end discussions
September 13, 10:30-2	Promont Design Group	Promont – bring a lunch and join us. Contact: Sharan at sharanphinkle@yahoo.com
September 26, 10:30	GMAHS Cemetery Studies FREE – open to the Public	Promont – Discussion topic TBD
September 27, 10:30-2	Promont Design Group	Promont – bring a lunch and join us. Contact: Sharan at sharanphinkle@yahoo.com
September 28 11-5PM	14 <sup>th</sup> annual Art Affaire	Main Street Milford – Volunteers needed. Contact Donna if you can help.

The holidays are here.



**This year, the Holiday decorations will be ready by early November. Volunteers will be busy in October setting up for this glorious display. Want to be involved? Please contact the office for information on volunteer opportunities during the Holidays.**