

Whaley Historic House Museum Newsletter

MARCH 2021



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Whaley Historic House Museum,

Can you believe that it has been one year since the world as we knew it changed forever and life was, in a way, put on hold? This month marks the one year anniversary since the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, cases of the novel coronavirus had been confirmed in Michigan, and the first emergency orders were issued to curtail gatherings and usher in the “work from home” era across the country.

After these initial closures, we were fortunate enough to have been able to successfully reopen during the summer months last year. But we once again decided to close our doors to the public in November 2020 in the interest of ensuring the public’s safety, and most importantly, to do our part in slowing the spread of Covid-19. This past holiday and winter season was, no doubt, a trying time for us all.

While the pandemic is still far from over, the good news that we can now see the end of this long road on the horizon! Several vaccines have been approved since our last newsletter and mass vaccinations efforts are well underway. While we are still unsure what the future holds, our hope is that some degree of normalcy will be able to return by the year’s end. Our eventual reopening is a topic that our Board of Directors will begin to reconsider at our next monthly Board meeting. And I must say, after a year of barely seeing anyone in the Whaley Historic House Museum, I look forward to the prospect!

We are still working diligently, as always, behind the scenes at the Whaley Historic House Museum. As I reported in our last newsletter, we were in the final stages of reviewing our organizational Bylaws. I am pleased to announce that we have since voted to accept these revisions. Also, we have received funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to create a video to increase our accessibility and engagement. Work to create this video is now firmly underway, and we have already gathered all relevant information and written our script! Of course, the most challenging part is now to brutally edit down the vast amount of information that we want to share with the public!

We encourage you to stay in touch with us and look for updates on our website www.WhaleyHouse.com or on our Facebook page. But, as always, If you would like to contact me directly, please feel free to message me at Director@WhaleyHouse.com or give me a call at (810) 471-4714! I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, and concerns. And I look forward to hopefully seeing you again soon!

Warm regards,

Davina Kuh Jakobi



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee.....2021

Ryan Eashoo, President
Malcolm Cottle, Vice President
Thomas Steele, Secretary
Julie Arter, Treasurer

Heather Burnash.....2022
William Gainey.....2022
William Hentgen.....2023
Dr. Thomas Henthorn.....2021
Claudnyse Holloman.....2023
Colleen Marquis.....2023
Gabriel Paul.....2021
Kelly Price, McFarlan Home representative

OPEN HOURS

While we are currently closed, we hope to reopen soon!



Our organization is funded, in part, by the Greater Flint Arts Council Share Art Genesee Grant Program made possible by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage funds. Your tax dollars are at work!

We would like to dedicate this newsletter to the memory of Freeman Greer, a long-time supporter.

DONATIONS

This year has presented us with unique challenges.

Our normal avenues of fundraising have not been available to us since March 2020. We ask that you consider making a financial gift to the Whaley Historic House Museum.

Show your support with a donation today!

- You can mail us a check!
- You can donate online through our website (via PayPal) at www.whaleyhouse.com/be-a-donor

Maintaining the Whaley Historic House Museum would not be possible without you! It means so much to us to have the support of you - our community!

THANK YOU |

NARTEL FAMILY FOUNDATION

SHARE ARTS GENESEE GRANT PROGRAM

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS AND SPONSORS

MEMBERSHIP

Please take a moment to consider renewing your membership or becoming a sustaining donor!

There are many ways to donate:

- Your charitable contribution is a beneficial way to distribute your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA account!
- Consider linking our registered organization to your **Kroger Card** and simply scan your card when you make purchases!
- Consider linking us to your **Amazon Smile** account and remember to check out through Amazon Smile when shopping on Amazon online!

Remember that we are a registered 501(c)(3) so your donation is completely tax deductible!

Additional Support

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to the Nartel Family Foundation for providing us with an unrestricted grant of \$5,000!

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to the Greater Flint Arts Council. This year we have received the Share Art Genesee Grant Program in the amount of \$28,000. This grant was made possible by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage funds. Your tax dollars are at work!

Voices for Children

Yard and Garden Club of Flint

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to our new and returning members and friends made donations from December 2020 to February 2021! We are so thankful for your support!

Julie Arter
David Barkey, in memory of Shirley Hoffman
Kelly and Joyce Beardslee
Bob Bessert
Heather Burnash
Dan Cady
Cynthia Cheshier
Malcolm Cottle
Robert Cojeen
Donna Dodds Hamm
David Eashoo
Ryan Eashoo
Falding Gadola
Bill Gainey
Bill Gibson
Frankie Hardy
Dr. Thomas Henthorn
Claudnyse Holloman
Marilyn Hurwitz
Michelle and Earl Johnson
Michael Kelly
Carol Lang
Byron and Margie Latter
James and Harriet Lay
Linda LeMieux
Jim Maxwell
John and JoAnn McIntosh
Gabriel Paul
Rachel Pearce and Shane Baker
Charles Piskoti
Jerry Preston
Thomas Steele
Kelly Price
Robert and Diane Sovis
Michael D. Young, Sr.

In addition, we would like to recognize the donation of a variety of porcelain tea sets and dinnerware on behalf of the Garland Family, courtesy of Diane and Gary Sikora

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT | Mary Louise McFarlan-Whaley



This newsletter coincides with both Women's History Month and with Mary McFarlan-Whaley's birthday, so we'd like to take a moment to commemorate the impact that she had on Flint!

Mary Louise McFarlan-Whaley was born on March 14, 1847 in Caldeonia, New York. She was the daughter of two early and influential migrants to Flint, Alexander McFarlan and Margaret Ann McFarlan (née Simpson), who moved to Flint in 1850. She met her husband Robert Jeremiah (R.J.) Whaley while visiting relatives in upstate New York. R.J. and Mary were married on January 24, 1867 in New York and moved to Flint later that year.

Mary was an active member of the Flint community. With her mother and sisters, she belonged to the Ladies' Library Association (eventually the Flint Public Library). Additionally, she was active in Art Class, one of Flint's pioneering women's organizations that promoted the education of women in the arts, literature, and history.

R.J. Whaley and Mary McFarlan-Whaley set aside land and funds to create the Whaley Children's Center, as a memorial to their son, Donald, who died at the age of ten from diphtheria in 1880. Whaley Park on Franklin Avenue was born out of seventy-two acres of land given to the City of Flint by Mary in memory of her husband following his death in 1922. Following her death in 1925, an endowment was created and the house was donated for use by the McFarlan Home, named after her parents. The house functioned as a home for elderly women through to the 1970s. In the 1970s, the construction of the I-475 would result in the destruction of the properties in its path, including part of the McFarlan Home. The McFarlan Home purpose-built a new facility next door, which is still located there today.

Her will recognized and left money to the Salvation Army, Y.W.C.A., King's Daughters, and Child Welfare Society, as well as Kearsley Street Methodist, Christ Episcopal, St. Andrew's Episcopal, Mt. Olive Baptist, and African Methodist-Episcopal. She was survived by her adopted daughter Florence, who remained an active member of the McFarlan Home's Board of Directors.

Mary McFarlan-Whaley's extensive scrapbooking and journaling has given us a very intimate understanding of her life and life at 624 East Kearsley Street from 1885 to 1925. Here she is pictured outside the Whaley House with her parrot Lorraine, and the family's dog Peter Piper.

