

Whaley Historic House Museum Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Whaley Historic House Museum,

In our last newsletter, we shared that we were looking forward to reopening after a period of closure resulting from the Executive Order issued in March. In fact, we did successfully reopen in August, and were able to safely host a few outdoor events, tours during our regularly scheduled open days, as well as several private events.

Of course, during this time, we were still keeping track of the number of new daily cases. Perhaps not unexpectedly, we decided to once again close our doors in November 2020 in the interest of the safety of our patrons, volunteers, and staff, and most importantly, to do our part in slowing the spread of Covid-19.

During a normal year, we would be getting ready to decorate the House for Christmas. Due to our latest closure, we will unfortunately not be doing so this year. However, we are pleased to announce that the exterior of the House is decorated, thanks to the generosity of our friends at Runyan's Country Tree Farm! We hope that you are able to stop by and that our festive facade brings you some joy (read more about it on the last page of this newsletter). This holiday season will be difficult for many, as we continue to stay vigilant to protect ourselves and others. While the pandemic is unfortunately still far from over, the good news is that several vaccines are on the horizon so finally, the end is in sight!

Over the past year, like many other museums, we have started focusing more on our online platforms. We had been testing out virtual tours, and recently, thanks to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, have received some funding to make a video to increase our accessibility and engagement (please see attached press release).

Work continues, as always, behind the scenes at the Whaley Historic House Museum. As I reported in our last newsletter, we were working to update some of our vital policies and procedures. To this end, I am pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of reviewing and updating our Bylaws! Also, with an eye on the horizon, we are working on our post-Covid strategic and financial plans.

As always, we are working to ensure that our museum stays organized and maintains the best practices. Now that we are closed to the public, we are focusing on our processing and storage areas and are working to unpack, survey, and preserve our stored collection objects. I am also pleased to report that thanks to our UM-Flint intern this past summer, we have also prepared a small exhibition on florigraphy for the second floor.

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 getting us back on track!

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 Shirley Hoffman, a long-time volunteer and supporter.

DONATIONS

This year has presented us with unique challenges.

Our normal avenues of fundraising have not been available to us since March. 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 |

ROCK FAMILY OF COMPANIES COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

SERVPRO OF FENTON/NW GENESEE COUNTY

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 you 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

This past summer, we were fortunate to have been nominated for the Rock Family of Companies Community Challenge via Mightycause. Due to the loss of independent revenue caused by our closure resulting from Covid-19, this fundraiser could not have come at a more fortunate time. We received 44 individual donations totaling over \$1,200. We also received additional funds totaling \$600 from the Rock Family of Companies. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all those who donated!

In October, we experienced a small flood in the bathroom adjacent to the Library. Not only are we thankful for the quick response of our Board Members, who responded to the alert at 11 PM, but we are also very thankful to our friends at SERVPRO of Fenton/NW Genesee County, who reached out to us the next day to assess and help us mitigate any potential water damage with their industrial-grade equipment!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to our new and returning members and friends who have renewed with us and/or made donations from July - November 2020! We are so thankful for your support!

Marilyn Alvey
Rachel Asimaz
John Ballenger
Louise Beck
Heather Burnash
Eleanor Clarke
Malcolm Cottle
Femke Diercks
David Eashoo
Ryan Eashoo
Paula Filarski
Robert Florine
Iloris Frounfelner
Falding Gadola
Audrey Gaia-Pay
Bill Gainey
Josh Goldberg
Paul Goldstein
Frankie Hardy
Dawn Hibbard
Daniel High
Lynne Hurand
Dr. Thomas Henthorn
Nyse Jenkins
Martin Jürgens
Brenda Kroupa
Camilla Liebold
Judge Herman Marabel
Colleen Marquis
Kathryn McCallister
Buddy McCrown
Mary McNally
Cathy Moore
Pamela Moore
Kelly Price
Rosemary Pullen
Barbara Purdy
Michele Salerno
Sherry Sisk
John and Mary Snell
Phillip Somela
Thomas Steele
Faye Whaley
Robert Wiess

VOLUNTEER | Highlight

Here at the Whaley Historic House Museum, our most valuable assets are our volunteers. This newsletter, we would like to shine a much-deserved spotlight on one of the many volunteers who help keep the Whaley Historic House Museum open and running...

We would like to thank our dedicated docent volunteers, **Marcia Amon**, **David Barkey**, and **Lucas Wiles**, who helped welcome and provide tours for members of the public from our reopening in August until our reclosure in November.



We are always looking for volunteers who can help share the story of the Whaleys with the public by giving tours, helping with programming needs, serving as a rental host, lending a hand with general maintenance, and a variety of other tasks throughout the year.

ACTIVITY RECAP | The Farewell To Summer Lawn Party

PARTNERSHIP WITH FLINT DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

This year we partnered with the Flint Downtown Development Authority to host and expand our second annual “Farewell to Summer Lawn Party”. So, first of all, thank you to Director of Placement, Kady Yellow, for working with us!

Together, we created a fun-filled day of socially-distanced live music throughout downtown Flint. Four concerts took place at Café Rhema, the Whaley Historic House Museum, and Blackstone’s Smokehouse. The two performances at the Whaley Historic House Museum featured Modestina and Bar None. We were also pleased to welcome back our friends at K & M Chuck Wagon, a local food truck, who provided us with innovative burgers and desserts!

To ensure social distancing, our concerts were ticketed this year. Though we sadly didn’t see too many guests this year in person, we streamed both concerts on Facebook Live, where over 600 people were able to enjoy the shows!



CHRISTMAS | OUR VICTORIAN HOUSE DECORATED



COME ENJOY THE WHALEY HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

As you are probably aware, we normally decorate the Whaley Historic House Museum for the Christmas Season. While we are closed this year, we would like to extend our appreciation to our friends at Runyan’s Country Tree Farm, who have helped us lovingly decorate the exterior of the Whaley Historic House Museum!

This holiday season, although we can’t welcome you in person, we encourage you to stop by and take a picture on our front porch. Feel free to upload the picture to social media and tag us!