

# Whaley Historic House Museum Newsletter

JULY 2020



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends of the Whaley Historic House Museum,

Last September, I joined the Whaley Historic House Museum with the goals of overcoming the various challenges resulting from the long fire restoration process, collaborating with other local organizations to restart regular fundraisers and programming, and re-engaging our members and the wider community. After starting my tenure with a lively lawn party, we were able to end 2019 on a high note! Thanks to the generosity of many local vendors and volunteers, our house was beautifully decorated from top to bottom for the Christmas season and December was fully booked with a variety of events and programs, both public and private.

To say that I was excited for our calendar of events and various collaborations going into 2020 would have been an understatement. However, just as we were getting into the swing of things, we had to once again close our doors to the public in March 2020, this time 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.

While we haven't been open to the public, work continues, as always, behind the scenes at the Whaley Historic House Museum. We've been working to secure funding, update our policies and procedures, and plan new ways to engage with the public. Over the past few months, like many all over the globe, we have started shifting to our online platforms. I even gave my first virtual tour! Hopefully, this is something that will continue even after we reopen to increase our accessibility and engagement.

But more than anything, we've missed you, and hope that you and your loved ones have been doing well during this challenging and uncertain time. Though things are getting better, our work to keep Covid-19 under control is far from over. Therefore, while we are definitely looking forward to once again having visitors in our House and hosting lively and engaging programs and fundraisers, we would like to assure you that we remain mindful of public safety, are constantly re-assessing the situation, and will not be rushing to reopen. To that end, you can find a little more about our tentative reopening plan on the third (last) page of this newsletter.

We encourage you to stay in touch with us and look for updates on our website [www.WhaleyHouse.com](http://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](mailto: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!

# 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](http://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!

# 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...*

**Marilyn Hurwitz** saw a Facebook post calling for a Master Gardener. Once our restoration was completed in 2018, she joined our team as a volunteer and has been with us since! She has even enlisted her husband, John, to help as well!

Marilyn is an Advanced Master Gardener and spends most of her spring and summers outdoors. Along with a handful of other gardening enthusiasts and volunteers, she has been instrumental in maintaining and cultivating the gardens here at the Whaley Historic House Museum. Work is currently underway and we look forward to inviting you to enjoy our grounds soon!



Although Marilyn primarily helps with gardening, she also helps with Victorian teas here at the Whaley Historic House Museum. Our monthly Victorian teas are our largest scheduled fundraisers. We would like to recognize her as a dedicated volunteer and great ambassador for the Whaley History House Museum.

# MEMBERSHIP

Please take a moment to consider renewing your membership or becoming a sustainable 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!**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to our new and returning members and friends who have renewed with us and/or made donations within the first half of the year (Jan – June 2020)!

Marcia Amon  
Julie Arter  
Daniel Cady  
Malcolm Cottle  
Thomas Henthorn  
Bill Hentgen  
Claudnyse Holloman  
Bill Gainey  
Angela Glenn  
Michael Kelly  
Carol Lang  
David Langdon  
John and Joann McIntosh  
Gabriel and Suzanne Paul  
David and Rebecca Pettengall  
Charles Piskoti  
Jerry Preston  
Kelly Price  
Thomas Steele  
Millie Wint  
Thomas Yeotis

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.

*If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact:*

*(810)471-4714 or  
Director@WhaleyHouse.com*

# THANK YOU | Additional Funding

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

As many of you are aware, even after we reopened in 2018, we were still navigating the long-term consequences of the fire that forced our closure in 2015. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the following institutions for providing generous financial gifts to us this year to support our operational budget and allow us to finally close the chapter on our fire restoration efforts:



McFARLAN  
VILLAGES

McFARLAN HOME  
COURT STREET  
VILLAGE

whiting  
FOUNDATION

## COVID-19 SUPPORT

Although we were looking forward to hosting regularly scheduled programming and fundraising in 2020, like many other organizations, we decided to halt our scheduled activities beginning in March. Since our closure, our normal avenues of fundraising have no longer been available to us. However, we have been fortunate to receive funding from the following institutions and programs:

- Small Business Association Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program
- The National Endowment for the Arts via the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, courtesy of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the  
**ARTS**  
arts.gov

## Our plans to reopen to the public

Though we are currently closed, we are looking to reopen in August

**August 1:** Public tours will resume during our opening hours 11 AM – 2 PM.

**August 15:** Public tours will resume during our opening hours 11 AM – 2 PM.

Our Victorian tea fundraisers will resume outdoors 2 PM – 4 PM.

\*You can now arrange for a privately catered Victorian Tea Service for you and your friends!

\*\*Virtual tours and private on-site site tours are available throughout the week by appointment.

## Upcoming events

- **Summertime Tea, Garden edition!**

When: Saturday, August 15 from 2 – 4 PM

What: To celebrate the restarting of our teas, come join us for a summery tea in the garden.

Enjoy a selection of tea, a delicious menu that includes traditional finger sandwiches and cakes.

Cost: \$25 (please reserve your tickets no less than 48 hours in advance via Eventbrite or directly!)

- **The “Farewell to Summer” Lawn Party**

When: Saturday, September 12 from 11 AM – 3 PM

What: To celebrate the last days of summer, come join us for a lovely garden party with live music on the porch. Picnic blankets welcome, food trucks will be available. There will be a raffle!

Cost: FREE, donations welcome, purchases available

**\*Masks will be required by all visitors inside the Whaley Historic House Museum until further notice. If you do not have a mask, disposable masks will be available for purchase. Your safety and the safety of our volunteers is important to us!**