

UPTON ASSOCIATION *Update*

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From the President: PANDEMIC FORCES CANCELLATIONS

By Sandy Mahaffey

Before March arrived, we had such wonderful events planned this year to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment – guaranteeing and protecting women’s constitutional right to vote! This was the theme of every club and organization, including the Upton Association! March arrived like a lion. Sympathy goes out to all who lost loved ones from this dreadful virus that captured the world and isn’t letting go! I lost my grandfather to the Spanish Flu in 1918. My father had just turned seven years old and had six siblings that grandma had to take care of at that time.

This virus has certainly changed our way of looking at things – from masks to social distancing – more importantly realizing how spoiled we Americans are in curtailing our activities.

Our own Upton Association had a yearlong plan celebrating the

passage of the 19th Amendment. We had events planned every month that had to be cancelled. We wanted to celebrate Harriet Taylor Upton and her contribution to the suffrage movement!

Along with our cancelled events, we also had to cancel the rental of the House. Thanks to Kathy Lepro who worked with the folks to reschedule and/or cancel their event entirely.

Thanks also to Janet Schweitzer who wrote a grant requesting a small financial recuperation for our losses for the year from the Humanities. We were awarded \$3,600 from this grant and it helped in a small way to offset our losses in the house rentals and planned fundraisers.

Events through December 2020 have been cancelled, except for our CHRISTMAS GARAGE SALE scheduled for November 20-21, 2020.

Upton Assn. Receives Ohio Humanities Emergency Grant

By Janet Schweitzer

The Harriet Taylor Upton Association, with approximately 200 members and a 25-member volunteer Board of Trustees, works hard all year, every year, to care for our beautiful Victorian mansion where history was made, its gardens, and the Women’s Park. This year, our income dropped to practically nothing from the traditional sources of community rentals for showers, weddings, birthday parties, and fund-raising activities. COVID-19 kept our facilities shuttered for the summer.

We applied and received a grant from the Ohio Humanities through the National Endowment for the Humanities to help in this emergency. This money would assist with core expenses such as utilities, maintenance, repairs etc. which otherwise would deplete us. The grant, distributed just for this summer quarter was for \$3,613, based on our 2020 budget.

The Upton Association appreciates that the U.S. Congress provided

these emergency funds to the National Endowment for the Humanities. We thank the Ohio Humanities for financial recognition to sustain the history and culture of our town, as well as our unique heroine of the vote, Harriet Taylor Upton.

ABOUT THE GRANT:

Ohio Humanities is tasked with supporting cultural and heritage nonprofit organizations in Ohio. In this time of pandemic and economic crisis, Ohio Humanities will use CARES Act funds provided by Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide a lifeline to public humanities organizations throughout the state. OH CARES Immediate Emergency Grants will provide direct support to organizations whose viability has been endangered by the sudden onset of the pandemic and economic crisis.



~ PASSAGE OF 19TH AMENDMENT CELEBRATED ~

By Sandy Mahaffey

On August 26, 1920, women received the right to vote. This was 70 plus years in the making and the Valiant Women of the Vote worked tirelessly during those 70 years so that today we can go to the polls and cast our vote for the candidate of our choice. What a tremendous undertaking these brave women took on and how wonderful we can celebrate their achievement today.

On August 26, 2020, the Women's Equality Day Committee was informed by the Health Director of Warren that we could not hold our 100-year celebration in the Warren Women's Park due to the COVID-19 Virus. To say we were disappointed is an understatement. Did we let that defeat us? NO!

As a combined effort with The Upton Association, we met as a small group (in the rain) and paraded across the street to the Women's Park for a mini celebration -- both to honor the Valiant Women of the Vote and Harriet Taylor Upton, who was instrumental in working with the suffrage movement and also present in the Gallery when the 19th Amendment became law. How exciting for all the women after all their hard work. A light lunch was provided by the Upton Board after our "wet" parade. Thank you to all who attended and helped us in holding our mini celebration.

A big celebration is set for next August 26, 2021, in Warren Women's Park at 12 p.m. We look forward to presenting our program at that time. Please mark your calendar.



Above: From left are Rosemary Sebring, E. Carol Maxwell as Harriet Taylor Upton, and Sandy Mahaffey

At Right: Sandy Sarsany baked and decorated these delightful cupcakes enjoyed by all who attended the event.

Rental Report: A Challenging Year

By Kathy Lepro

There were six lovely events that took place at the Upton House the first two and a half months of this year. Then the Covid19 pandemic created challenges for all of us, and 2020 will go down in history as a time we will never forget. We have had to face uncertainties, fears and disappointments; we have had to make adjustments; but perhaps through all of this we have had time to reflect on what really matters in life.

During the second week of March, I called those who had reserved a date or who had already scheduled and paid for an event to give the bad news that we were temporarily closing for health and safety reasons. Several already had invitations sent, food ideas planned and party supplies purchased, but all were very understanding. Many requested

a re-scheduling, hoping things would be better in a few months, but it was not. One particular bridal shower had three different dates on the calendar, all of which subsequently needed to be cancelled. Finally, it was decided to close the facility for rentals through the end of June.

We ultimately honored the six scheduled events of July, August and early September since the option of the outdoor patio was available and social distancing could be observed. However, it was decided to accept no more reservations until further notice.

So here we are in the fall of 2020 and things are very quiet at 380 Mahoning Avenue in downtown Warren. However, the Harriet Taylor Upton House still maintains its beauty for any kind of future event, and I am confident that when this pandemic is behind us, we will pick up where we left off. Until then, as we all continue to make adjustments and to ponder what is important in life, please stay safe and healthy.

WOMEN'S PARK REPORT

By Marti Flint

The Women's Park was nominated for "Women Warriors" by Beth Carmichael from the Trumbull Tourism Center. For the past several weeks, the Guiding Circle of the Fund for Women and Girls chose women from submitted nominations to spotlight. So many impressive nominations were received, and for the tenth spotlight, the Guiding Circle wants to share them all!

These honorees are true Women Warriors, sacrificing for their families, their neighbors, and their community during this crisis. THANK YOU to each of the women nominated for all of their hard work, to those who took the time to submit nominations, and to all of the other fighters out there!



Week 10 Honorees include Amber Bonilla, Jenn Drennen, Katie Fallo, Marti Flint and the Volunteers of the Women's Park in Downtown Warren, Kelley Gilchrist, Ashley Marie Gore, Hope Haney, Dollaine Holmes, Sarah Lowry, Courtney Poullas, Jennifer Saul Campbell, Robin Silvestri, Emily Sutton, Shelia Triplett, LaDonna Walker and Lisa Wallace.

House Report

By Ken Conklin

Harriet's home has been rather quiet these past months because of the virus. Safety of our guests is very important to the Board so rentals have been discouraged. Praying for better times in 2021.

Thanks to Terry and Judi Sheridan for removing and disposing of tons of cans of paint that has been in the basement for many years. Last year, the attic was cleaned out and now we are slowly making progress on cleaning out the basement.

Many of us are getting just a little older so thanks to Todd Pippenger, two new "high" commodes have been installed in the bathrooms of the Upton House. No, you will not need a ladder to use them! Also, a big thank you to Rob Bickel from Bickel Tree Service for the quick service we received in the removal of the Mulberry tree that fell during a recent storm.

Our problem air conditioning unit continues to be a concern so replacement probably will be necessary in 2021. In addition, general cleaning and maintenance is ongoing and we continue to hear the Upton is a jewel in Warren, and we certainly agree!

Garage Sale Update

By Susan Stoddart

Despite having to rethink the whole process for our Summer Garage Sale, we collected over \$1,300 in sales at our supposed one-day event. Never turn away people who show up a day early, because they spent \$400! Some came back on Saturday and bought more!



Friday was amazing in that our 12 volunteers pulled everything that was for sale out of the garage and had tables up in about an hour. Considering 1-1/2 bays of the garage were piled over 4 ft. high, that was amazing in itself. Not having any of the sale in the house made setting up challenging, but another dozen volunteers showed up after lunch. We almost had too many helpers by 3:00 P.M. It was great to have some new faces helping along with those I can always count on.

Thanks to Liz Clark for contacting, in person, the Community Volunteer Council to pick up the leftovers. We gave them almost everything with a few things saved for the Christmas Sale. It took them two trips in a full size van to get all the items over to West Market Street.

The Christmas Sale is set for November 20-21 and will be held inside the house and garage. A ton of stuff has been donated already. Thanks to Marti for rounding up all the volunteers.

Story Time with Mrs. Claus Goes Virtual

By E. Carol Maxwell

Whew! As you can see in the photograph, Mrs. Claus is tuckered out. She is settling down for a short nap after planning how she will host this year's Story Time with Mrs. Claus event for the children.

The elfettes and elves are helping Mrs. Claus prepare for this very special time.

On Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13th, girls and boys can come to Harriet Taylor Upton's home for a short visit with Mrs. Claus. Each child will receive a special gift bag that includes: 1) a holiday mask; 2) everything needed to decorate a frame for their picture* with Mrs. Claus; 3) a second craft project; 4) an activity booklet; and 5) a wrapped cookie. A special card will be in the bag that tells the children where they will find the link to a video of Mrs. Claus reading stories and singing songs. (*The picture will need to be taken by the adult who brings them to see Mrs. Claus.)

Paid reservations are due by Saturday, December 5th. The cost is \$6.00 per child. Each child/family will have a designated time for their visit. Mrs. Claus will be waiting for the children in the Upton House parlor from Noon to 5 P.M. on Saturday and from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Sunday. Please call 330-360-0901 or email ecarol@twc.com to confirm the specific time for your child's visit. Reservation forms are available at www.uptonhouse.org. Go to Calendar page link.



'Valiant Visionaries of the Vote'



By Janet Schweitzer

Throughout the winter of 2020, the Upton delegation of Sandy Mahaffey, Sandy Sarsany, Janet Schweitzer and other Upton members, met with a consortium of NE Ohio historical societies planning programs and activities to honor the immense contributions of the women of NE Ohio in the difficult route to earn the vote for women.

The consortium spearheaded by the Trumbull County Historical Society received a grant from the Ohio Humanities to make the centennial of the vote more real and interesting to the public. The Upton Association took on the role of meeting hostess, at the Upton House, and sponsoring organization.

The wonderful plans for an Ohio "Wander Tour" to the houses, homes of suffrage movers and shakers, with trading cards of each suffragette, or historic figure, to be given at each site, had to be cancelled when all the historical houses and sites were shuttered due to COVID-19.

Several on-line virtual activities were presented on a web-site for the "Valiant Visionaries of the Vote. The website still exists, with information of the women, and men, homes, and chapel, even Lake Erie College for Women, across the 70 years of striving for women's rights in NE Ohio. Please go to the web site at www.neosuffrage.org and see the enormous amount of history, featuring the Upton House prominently, in our own backyard.

We are grateful for the opportunity in this centennial year to Ohio Humanities for the funds to proceed.

2020 Events to be Rescheduled

By Judi Sheridan

Every attempt will be made to reschedule the programs, open houses and celebrations in 2021. We look forward to returning to our "new normal" schedule as soon as possible in 2021. The major focus of 2020 was the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. We hope to make 2021 the celebration it was meant to be!

Garden Report: 2020 Volunteer Hours September 8-29

By Carol Olson

Gardening remains as Americans #1 favorite past time and boomed with the pandemic this year. People were interested in gardening that had not done any for years. Gardening is never boring. "Remember no two gardens are the same and no two days are the same in one garden."

The wonderful garden volunteers were Hank Angelo, Ruth Ann Capito, Ken Conklin, Joyce Fleischer, Pam Rintala, Deborah Rudloff, Sandy Sarsany, Kathy Seemann, and Carol Olson. New volunteers were Donna Beatty, Diana Tripi and Kim Welch. All made up a dedicated group!

Due to COVID 19 rules and regulations from Governor DeWine, we did not have the annual kick-off luncheon in the spring. Clean-up Day, the first workday in the garden, was held on May 5th. I received a call that Raul Kemp wanted us to pick up the flowers before Mother's Day; he had been without any students since March to help him with the flowers and plants. Deb Rudloff, Sandy Sarsany and Carol Olson picked up the flowers on May 6th and stored them in the garage and then moved them to a warmer site, the Curator's Museum, until the ground temperature was 40-50 degrees. Some of the tender annuals did not survive. Carol picked up geraniums from Mike Paquet. Sad news is that Raul Kemp retired at the end of the school year and Mike might also make that same decision. What a sticker shock that will be next year!! Thank you notes were sent to our faithful garden "buddies."

Much of the Dusty Miller in Harriet and Kay's area returned this year and was full and lovely all season. The vibrant pink and coral impatiens in the Lady in the Fountain were picked up and planted by Sandy Sarsany. Kay had given us a gift certificate to Dick Adgate's so Sandy bought impatiens and portulaca, another one of Kay's favorite flowers. We also created a border of Dusty Miller on the Monroe side. More pachysandra was donated by Bonnie Hood. We purchased 3 Hydrangea paniculata 'Bokratorch' for the front bed because the previous hydrangea plants no longer bloomed tall enough to be seen over the Lamb's Ear border. The money came from a donation by "Lost in Spanx," one of the Tribune's contest weight loss winners. Also purchased with the donated money were Cleome, Coleus, Calla Lilies, Angelonia, dianthus and "King Fuchsia" phlox. The Cleome and Coleus were spectacular this year. Hopefully, all the perennial flowers will return next year.

The birdbath was bleached, cleaned and moved to a more prominent place at the end of the stone pathway by the hitching post flowerbed.

Maintenance: We still fought the Bishop's Weed and onion plants



which polluted Harriet's area. The areas where Bishop's Weed was the "thug" was in the front bed behind the Boxwood and in the Rose of Sharon bed. We were kept busy with removing a new "thug," Roxanne Geraniums that had taken over inside the Monroe fence flower beds. We also cut dozens of Rose of Sharon saplings spreading everywhere. We did not want a Rose of Sharon jungle in our future!

We cut back Lamb's Ear from the front stones and tied back the Russian Sage which has filled out nicely and the delicate purple flowers keep the bees busy. We put down 16 bags of mulch and 76 pails of tree mulch donated by Lou and Kathy Lepro. We dealt with webworms, liriopie and poison ivy. We tried to deter squirrels from digging in the stone pots on the patio by adding coffee grounds; it worked somewhat. We divided hostas and ferns and transplanted them to other areas in the gardens. Hank trimmed the hedges.

Ken sprayed the driveway and hooked up the watering system. Elaine Conklin trimmed and hung the Boston Ferns on the front porch. Hank and Carol met with the Timko family. Carrie Timko is submitting an application for approval for an Eagle Scout project to level stones around the patio area.

At the end of August before the last scheduled rental, the ground was saturated with heavy rain. Most of the remaining trunks of the Mulberry Tree came out of the ground and fell forward on to the lawn. Ken called for tree removal by Bickel Tree Service. A sad ending to a piece of Upton House history.

A big THANK YOU to all Harriet's dedicated garden volunteers Looking forward to seeing you for "Make a Difference Day" and cleanup day in October and hopefully, some new volunteers in Harriet's Garden in 2021!

A Fight to Kill

By Janet Schweitzer

As we celebrate the centennial of passage of the 19th Amendment, many of us praise the efforts of our forbearers, including Harriet Taylor Upton. In 1920, it must have been a time of parties and toasts, for those who had risked life and limb to see that women had the right to vote in a democracy. That's what I had always thought, but I didn't know how angry and determined the anti-suffragists were to take back this freedom of ours until I read in the New York Times, for August 30, 2020, an article by Elaine Weiss, author of "The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote."



After the close vote in Tennessee, the last of the needed 36 states to ratify, the Tennessee legislature anti-suffragists decided to take it back to the drawing board. The vote had passed when Harry Burn voted for it, on August 18, 1920, due to his reading his Mother's letter that morning. It was not law for a week. What happened during that week?

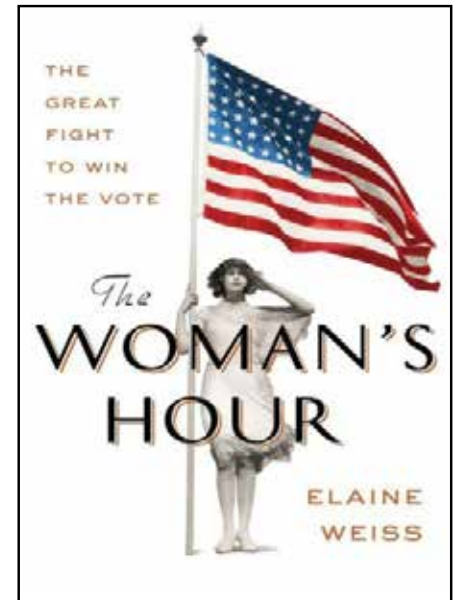
The real problem, it turns out, was racial because the idea that both black men and women would vote struck fear in the southern gentry. Due to fear of losing child labor, women strengthening Prohibition, and manufacturers and railroad barons worrying that they would lose influence, the anti-suffragists all tried to get rid of the decision. They accused young Harry of being bribed. That did not work. They tried to call for a revote, coercing some of the "pro" side to become "nay." Recall petitions, a call for the resignation of the Governor, and torch lit protest rallies, stressing fear, went on for a couple days, and then they took it to the U.S. Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby, telling him he should not accept the ratification papers. He refused. But Colby had to file the proclamation before their pending federal injunction, filed in D.C. to cease, came forward.

The mail train carrying the ratification papers arrived in Washington at 4 a.m., August 26, 1920, and waiting postal workers rushed it to Colby's house where he signed it in his home with one aide as a witness. No photos were taken, and no suffragists were even there. (That was a bit unusual.) Then it was the law of the land.

But the Tennessee anti-suffragists decided to ram through a state repeal, saying they would hold back their Tenn. Congressmen's pay, in this nullification measure. It was moot, and a no-go, because there are no do-overs in federal ratification. Eventually the Supreme court heard the case, rejecting it in 1922.

That is the nutshell version of what I learned. Voting, in this our democratic-republic, a 200-year-old "experiment," as Ben Franklin told us, must be protected.

It seems this is not over yet.



Visit our website for the latest updates:
www.uptonhouse.org

WOMEN'S PARK BRICKS

By Linda Davis

As Fall approaches, with its cooler temperatures and colorful leaves, now is a wonderful time to enjoy a visit to The Women's Park. In addition to the lovely plants and flowers, great improvements have been taking place all Spring and Summer to the brick paths and walkways.

Did you know that all of the old worn bricks and pavers, about 400 so far, are being replaced with new ones and freshly engraved? Thanks to Ken and Elaine Conklin for all their hard work and dedication undertaking this task. Many of the oldest original bricks were illegible, requiring a little detective work, a little process of elimination and a great deal of perseverance to decipher. This project continues and should be completed by Summer 2021.

Remember, now may be a good time to purchase a brick as a tribute or a memorial to a special woman in your life. Due to COVID-19, nearly all of the Upton's fundraising events were cancelled this year. Support your association by purchasing a brick.



*Details and order forms are available at:
www.uptonhouse.org.*

VOLUNTEER REPORT

By Marti Flint

Masks and social distancing have not prevented our volunteers from donating time to keep the Upton house running smoothly. During these unusual times, helpers for Harriet's garden, the Women's Park, the garage sale, docents and those maintaining the house have logged over 1,125 hours of service.

Although events have been cancelled or rescheduled, many hours

were needed to keep things maintained and many were willing to lend a hand. Our volunteers show love for the association by their labor, and their time is much appreciated.

As we look to 2021, we hope we will be able to resume more activities and have our volunteer opportunities available once again.



Membership Report

By Sandy Mahaffey

Thank you to all who renewed their membership and a warm welcome to new members to The Upton Association. We achieved our budget goal for 2020. We have a total of 160 members including one honorary member.



The 2021 Membership Campaign begins in January. Happy holidays and stay safe!

Education Report

By Liz Clark

Just pretend that you are a 4th grader on your first trip to the beautiful Perkins' home on Mahoning Avenue. While you are outside of the wrought iron fence, you look up to the very top of this home. You see the small wrought iron fence. This was a lookout for the family to see how close their arriving guests were.

As you start up the sidewalk toward the house, you pass a beautiful Ginkgo tree. This tree dates back to prehistoric times. As we approach the building, we are fascinated to learn that all of the windows have an arch over them and they have pears or ferns or ivy decorated at the bottom of each arch. The concrete entrance is crumbling because of our severe winters that cause expansion and contraction of the surface. The beautiful columns are of the Greek Corinthian design.

The front door is extremely heavy and you pass through an entrance that has doors 12 feet tall. The beautiful entrance hall is important and you must STOP and LOOK UP! This will be part of your experience throughout the Perkins' Mansion. As you slowly move forward, looking up you will see an enormous ARCH with a KEY STONE. This architectural design is used throughout this building and especially in the basement. The weight of the second floor comes down and is split in half so that half the weight is distributed to the left and the other half to the right.

Moving forward toward the stairs which have no support, you will see they are freestanding. While standing at the bottom of the staircase,

we are again reminded to LOOK UP! Here we see a beautiful stained glass window with beautiful paintings around it.

Now, we go back to the magnificent parlor. Here you will see a fireplace made of Carrara marble that was designed in Italy at the same quarry where Michelangelo selected the marble for his exquisite statues. This has been designed in Italy and brought to the United States where it was assembled much like a kit. All of the fireplaces in the Perkins' Mansion work beautifully and don't smoke!

The mirror is surrounded by black lacquer of an Oriental design. The same design is used to decorate the windows that look out onto the front porch.

The next room is the beautiful office of Mr. Perkins. Here again is a beautiful fireplace made from marble, but not as elegant as the Carrara marble in the parlor. The bookcases and other wooden features are made of mahogany, walnut, oak, and other fine woods. The beautiful credenza has neither metal braces nor hinges but is completely engineered by wooden pegs that all move freely with no squeaks. At the door leading to the next room is a gold metal object. If turned, it would call the maid to come to this office. Each room has the ability to summon the housekeeper!

Next Spring, when the Upton Association Update is published, you will learn a whole lot more about this beautiful home.





~ REMEMBERING ~ KAY W. FISHER

By Carol Olson

The Upton Association lost a very dear founding member in August this year, Kay W. Fisher. She will always be remembered as the “Lady who got things done” and asked for forgiveness later. She will live forever in our thoughts and memory. When we remember, the sadness we feel will turn to smiles and thoughts of special times with Kay.

A toast and tribute to Kay W. Fisher:

“I remember Kay’s presentation at Trumbull Town Hall on her topic of Penguins. She stepped in when needed and was awesome. What a brave lady.”

~ Sandy Mahaffey

“When I think of Kay and her inspiring life, Proverbs 31:26 comes to my mind – ‘She speaks with a gentle wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.’”

~ Esther Gartland

“Kay was a sweet, but feisty woman. You could always count on her.”

~ Sandra Sarsany

A Special “Buddy”

We remember you:

*In the rising of the sun and in it’s going down, we remember you.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember you.
In the opening of the buds and the warmth of summer, we remember you.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember you.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember you.
As long as we live, you shall live too, for you are a part of us as,
We remember you.*



By Kathy Lepro

I first met Kay in October of 1980 when my husband and I bought our home directly across the street from her. It was not long before we realized what a strong, adventurous and amazing neighbor she was. Kay was like a second mother to me, offering support and words of wisdom over the years as we raised our three children, who loved her dearly even though she gave them new toothbrushes for Halloween instead of candy!

Kay would often just pop in to see how things were going, and of course, she would tell me what was happening outside my world of child raising. I definitely recall how she enthusiastically talked about The Upton Association, and how she repeatedly encouraged me to get involved with it. Well, eventually I joined, and I am so glad I did.

However, what I am even more grateful for is having known Kay for 40 years. She was with us for birthday parties, graduation celebrations, holiday dinners, showers, and family weddings. What an emotional experience it was when my husband and I went to her house for the last time to say good-bye the day she left for Montana! We kept in touch with regular phone calls, but it was never the same as talking to her face to face.

Now Kay is face to face with God in heaven. I feel she is cheering us on as a family, as an association, as a city and a country to remain strong.

May she rest in peace.



“Kay was an inspiration and one of the best role models that I ever met. I was so proud to call her my friend. She certainly made Warren, Ohio a better place to live, work, and play.”

~ Carolyn Andrews

“With love in my heart, I will always cherish the special times Kay and I spent together. Extra special times were when we portrayed Harriet & Zell and when we worked together on her book Conversations with God – a book of graces written for Trumbull Town Hall lecture luncheons.”

~ E. Carol Maxwell

MEMORIAL GIFTS offered in honor of Kay W. Fisher have been received from E. Carol Maxwell, David McFarland, Carol Olson, Jane Pollis, Deborah Rudloff and Terrence and Judith Sheridan. Donations that are not designated will be added to the Endowment Fund. Donations can be sent to The Upton Association, P.O. Box 847, Warren, OH 44482. All donations are tax deductible.



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