

UPTON ASSOCIATION *Update*

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From the President: Trying to Work our Way Back to 'Normal'

By Sandy Mahaffey

Welcome to Fall, 2021 from the Upton Association. As my title of my letter today indicates, we are trying very hard to continue to bring you programs, invite you to enjoy the use of Harriet's Home through rentals, and keep the memory of Harriet Taylor Upton alive and useful. It has certainly been trying – thinking we were doing well, and the second wave hit. Thank goodness thousands received the vaccination and though the cases were upon us, hospitalizations and deaths have been reduced.

Our organization had a busy summer of open houses, wonderful displays of old flags, baby doll beds of every size, and the opportunity for the public to visit the open houses and learn about Harriet and her family. We were opened as we usually do on the first Sunday in June, July, and August and had visitors from our area and other states. Ken Conklin, our resident docent, gives informative tours with humor and much knowledge of Harriet's home. Sandy Sarsany, our curator of Harriet's museum gave tours also. We had a program with Dr. Molly Sergi, a professor at Kent State University. Dr. Sergi spoke on period clothing of the Suffrage time. A boxed lunch was included, that we ate outdoors on the patio and the beautiful gardens of the home. Approximately 40 men and women attended.

Amidst all our celebrations, the world reminds us of constant changes – both good and bad. We are in a world, I believe, Harriet would not be comfortable or safe in living. I know our forefathers did not envision the technology, the inventions, nor the evil that sometimes invades the years. We must learn from history that change is constant, that the ebb and flow of both good and evil continues. Struggles are in every century, a thought the Suffrage movement knows all too well. It took over 70 years to receive the vote for Women. There were protests, jailing, hunger strikes, and parades in order to win the Right to Vote.

We thank the Men and Women who fought for this right. We must never forget what they went through. It is our responsibility to inform our daughters and granddaughters of this struggle and encourage their involvement in voting in every election.

Notices of both Fall and Winter programs will be sent. The Board works hard to bring you events that are both historical and enjoyable for our members. Thank you for your support through this year. Stay healthy and hope to see you soon

Upton is Three-Time Local Alliance Award Recipient



Several years ago, the Upton Association school tour program was recognized for its excellence by OHLA, and Elizabeth Clark received the award in Columbus. More recently, Ken Conklin was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for his many contributions since the beginning of the Upton Association.

This year Judith Sheridan (pictured), Upton board member and longtime treasurer will also receive an Outstanding Achievement Award.

Due to the pandemic and health and safety restrictions, the OHLA annual meetings are being held virtually, so Sheridan will not travel to Columbus.

Judith is being recognized for more than 50 years spent in her efforts related to local history. Beyond the Upton Association, she also has spent 47 years restoring and living in one of the Western Reserve's earliest extant homes in North Bloomfield. She served as secretary-treasurer for the Association for Living History, Farms and Agricultural Museums for 20 years attending many European museum meetings representing the United States. She is currently the secretary for the Northeastern Ohio Inter-Museum Council that has 120 institutional members in counties that touch Cuyahoga County. She is best known at Upton for her planning of annual luncheons, educational programs and fund raisers with interesting themes and speakers.

This is a significant honor for the Upton Association and its place in local Ohio history. Congratulations, Judith!

~ WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY CELEBRATED ~

By Marti Flint

One of the highlights of the year was the celebration of the 101th anniversary of the 19th Amendment on August 26. That day was marked with a parade that included men and women dressed in period clothing marching into the Women's Park. Another highlight of the program was that friends of Harriet Taylor Upton were present and introduced to the audience.



Pictured above: Ken Conklin and Sandy Mahaffey portray George and Harriet Upton. At left: Mike Wilson as President McKinley.



Portraying the Valiant Women of the Vote are in back from left: Deborah Rudloff (with the pink umbrella) and Marti Flint. In front from left are Pam Hallet, Kim Welch, Danita Davis.

Rental Report: Remaining Optimistic

By Kathy Lepro

The rental report in last spring's newsletter was titled "Probable Reopening." That reopening became a reality as more and more people received vaccinations, the nicer weather arrived, and folks in general became comfortable coming together indoors in large groups.

Unfortunately, though, there have been only 15 rental events that have taken place at the Upton House so far this year, which is well below the usual count, although better than the total of 12 in 2020. There are still a few months left in 2021, so I'm optimistic that there will be more events and parties as the holidays get closer.

Most people who rent the Upton House say they had attended a prior gathering there and were understandably very impressed and

subsequently chose Harriet's beautiful home to host their own special event. Many others requested a rental date based on a recommendation from someone who had been there in the past. Still others found information and pictures on our website that sparked their interest. In all instances, renters have been and continue to be amazed with everything that the beautiful Upton House has to offer at a reasonable cost.

If you are looking for a place to host a future gathering, please call me (330-392-4202) for information and to reserve a date. Likewise, if you know someone who is, feel free to share my phone number. I'll be glad to be of help. Thank you for your continued support and/or your willingness to promote the Upton House as a jewel in downtown Warren. How can we be anything but optimistic that things eventually will improve?!

WOMEN'S PARK REPORT

By Marti Flint

The Women's Park was a very busy place the last several months. Some of the activities that were held in the Park were weddings and wedding photos, birthday celebrations, photos of first birthday milestones, and homecoming groups came for photos on the bridge. July was a hot and rainy month. During one of the downpours our pond pump was damaged, and several fish died. Thanks to Todd Pippenger, we were able to get a new pump quickly and the rest of the fish are doing well.



Lovely View of the Fish Pond & Bench



Lovely View of the Stream & Bridge



A dedicated group of volunteers work every Wednesday during the spring, summer and fall to maintain the park. This group is responsible for trimming, planting,

weeding, and maintaining the stream and pond. The committee members are Dolly Crockett, Linda Davis, Joyce Fleischer, Karen Jennings McGaha, Pam Rintala, Deb Rudloff, Karen Sprague, and Martha Flint. We also have a neighbor, John Tremsyn, who has taken on the responsibility of taking care of our fish in the pond.

Due to their work the Women's Park is a lovely place for all to enjoy

UPTON HOUSE GARAGE SALE

STOP BY!
Shop for Christmas treasures and more!

Thursday, November 18 ~ 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday, November 19 ~ 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, November 20 ~ 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Membership Report

By Sandy Mahaffey

So happy to report we have reached our goal of 100% membership for this year. Thank you so much goes out to everyone that renewed their membership and a warm welcome to the newcomers. It is with support from all of you that gives us the ability to maintain Harriet's Home and Gardens. Looking forward to a safe and healthy fall and winter.



As a reminder, our next Membership Campaign begins in January 2022.

House Report

By Ken Conklin

The big gray house on Mahoning Avenue has been rather quiet over the past months because of Covid. However, a few projects have been completed. The base for the cement table on the terrace decided it had held the table top long enough and one of the supports broke off and was unfixable. A new base was constructed, and the table once again is ready for many more years of service. The sun was not kind to the front door and the finish began to peel and chip. The door was sanded, primed, and painted which should hold up better than the stain.

Upton House bricks are available for \$30.00. This might be a nice addition to your garden. Please consider ordering one.

The Arbor in Harriet's Garden started showing signs of rot and was in disrepair. This had been given by E. Carol Maxwell in memory of her parents. It has been removed and a new Arbor has been purchased (thanks to E. Carol) and has been constructed and will be installed in the garden soon. A picture will be in the Spring Newsletter.



The House continues to be a labor of love and Harriet would be pleased.

Curator Report

By Sandra Sarsany

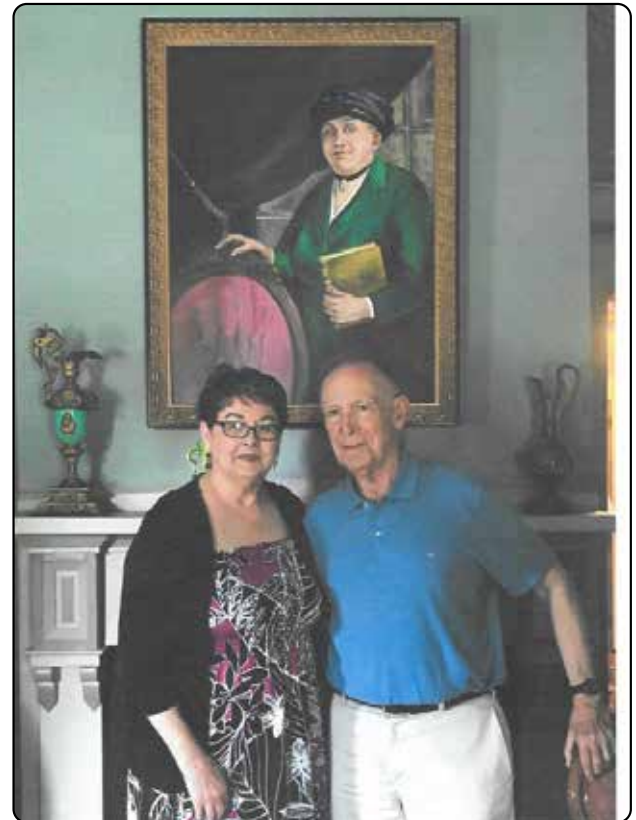
While attending our spring luncheon in May, I was approached by a gentleman who introduced himself as Norman Kelker from New York City. He stated that he was Harriet's great-great nephew.

THIS IS HIS STORY:

My mother was adopted shortly after her birth in 1905 by a Garrettsville family, Mark and Lotte Taylor. Mark Taylor was the son of Edwin and Mary Taylor. Mark Taylor was a first cousin of Harriet Taylor Upton.

Harriet wrote two letters to my mother in Hiram, Ohio in 1943 and 1945. My father was teaching Physics and General Science at Hiram College at that time.

Mr. Kelker has graciously donated the letters to the Upton archives. Both letters are handwritten, two pages, both sides. Harriet's handwriting is a bit hard to decipher, but he has included an attempt to decode them!



Pictured are Sandy Sarsany and Norman Kelker.

Garden Report: Grateful for Committee's Continued Devotion

By Carol Olson

I hope everyone has had the opportunity to see what the Garden Committee has been up to since April and has thanked them for volunteering to keep the gardens looking pristine and colorfully beautiful. I personally thank each one of them for their devotion to Harriet's Gardens. They gave 262.5 volunteer hours during the spring/summer months.

The COVID pandemic added new challenges, but it did not discourage the garden members. Members began clean-up in May to prepare the gardens for planting: Joyce Fleischer, Deborah Rudloff, Kim Welch, and Carol Olson. Ornamental grasses were removed from the front of the hedges and some coral bells were transplanted to new areas. Both Bonnie Hood and Mike Semple from the Tribune took pictures.

Due to the retirements of Mike Paquet and Raul Kemp, flowers this year had to be purchased at various establishments: Chuck's Greenhouse in North Jackson, Sierra Greenhouse in Mecca, Lowe's and Gilmore's Greenhouse. On planting day 12 volunteers worked in the gardens: Donna Beatty, Ruth Ann Capito, Davita Davis, Joyce Fleischer, Bonnie Hood, Sandra Sarsany, Diana and Robert Tripi, Kim Welch, and her nephew, Mitchell, a friend Charlene Monsanty, whose father had built the original fence at the Upton, and Carol Olson. Mitchell and Robert were able to move the very heavy patio benches and pots into place. Kathy Seemann replaced the herb garden and selected the gold, white, and purple plants for the new Women's Suffrage Garden. An informational sign will be ordered. We purchased new flowers this year: NOA Blue Legend Calibrachoa; Sun Impatiens; Summer nights Delphinium (which the critters ate); Gaura; Creeping Jennie; Brise d'Anjou Polemovurm Caeruleum. Cayenne Pepper was used in the pots to deter critters from digging in them and reapplied often! Lou and Kathy Lepro also donated some shade plants. Ruth Ann donated an Oakleaf Hydrangea for the area where the ornamental grasses were removed. Also in the same bed, Coral Bells were moved and the stones circling the bed were repositioned. We planted some of the same flowers as in 2020: Angelonia, Lobelia, Cleome and Alyssum. Some Lilies, Coral Bells, Dusty Miller, Lady's Mantle, Amsonia and Sedum were transplanted.

Some 2020 plants had been winterized and planted in the gardens/pots: Wandering Jew, Arboicola and Geraniums. Three new trellises were added to support the rose bushes that are being maintained by Pam Rintala. On the patio one of the "decorative leaves" on the pedestal table broke off at the rebar area. Carol looked for a replacement at Patrone's Gardens; Ken Conklin volunteered to make a



Thank You to Our Amazing Garden Volunteers!



new base. Ken removed a dead Redbud Tree, but some shoots have come up, so we will have to see what happens in 2022.

We thought we were done with the messiness of the Mulberry Tree, but there was still one at the back of the gardens that produced berries. Ken cut off some branches to reduce the amount of berry droppings on the sidewalk.

In the spring, the first attempt was made to "prune and trim" the huge boxwood bushes on the Monroe side of the house. They were cut back about 1/3 by Kathy Seemann and Ken trimmed again in the summer. We will plan to continue trimming every year. Carol's sister-in-law and husband visited in August and between Karie, Bob, Dan, and Carol the stone walkways, one on each side of the sundial, were completed. The project took 16 hours and \$41.60. Thank you, relatives and Kathy Seemann who made the initial attempt!

Upton Members Pay Visit to Chapel in Newbury

By Judith Sheridan

Friday, September 17 saw 14 Upton members on the road to Newbury, OH to visit a tiny building erected in the 1850's to support free speech. The building was well known to Harriet Upton as she spoke there several times in support of women's suffrage. She is also remembered on their plaque prominent on the front lawn. The three trustees who manage the building were on hand to tell us its story and place in history.

After the visit, the group proceeded to Blazin' Bill's BBQ Restaurant for a hearty lunch and fellowship. We were glad to be able to spend time together on a beautiful late summer day.



Pictured are Upton Board Members and Friends

Summer Open House

By Sandy Mahaffey

The Upton House held a general open house the first Sunday in June. Flags prior to our American flag being designed were on display in July. These were flags from various ships during the revolutionary Era. Doll beds were our display in August. Many were handmade and of various sizes. All our open houses were well attended.



Pictured is Judi Sheridan

VOLUNTEER REPORT

By Joyce Fleischer

We have been very busy at the Upton this year now that things are open. We have had nice events and our volunteers are a big part of the plans for making them happen. Please consider getting involved in projects at the house, helping in Harriet's Garden, and the Women's Park. Volunteers are also needed to help with our annual garage sales and Story Time with Mrs. Claus. The Upton Association thanks all who volunteer and take part in fulfilling our mission. I am the new volunteer coordinator, I will call and set up times when help is needed, or you may call 330-974-2114 or email me at joycefleischer@att.net. Any of our board members will be happy to talk to you about volunteering.

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

Purchase A Brick in The Women's Park

The holidays are right around the corner and our Women's Park Bricks are a wonderful way to recognize someone special. They really do make a unique and thoughtful gift!

*She was an early settler, a pioneer, an immigrant.
 She was grandmother, teacher, mentor.
 She is mother, sister, daughter, partner, friend.
 Whether she lived her whole life here or never visited,
 If she was important in your life,
 You can honor and celebrate her life and all the lives of the women you love.*



Purchaser's Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Telephone: () _____
 Email: _____

Payment: Total \$ _____ check payable to Women's Park Fund
 Payment for your brick is tax deductible. Any profit from the sale of the brick goes toward the support and maintenance of the park. All bricks are the property of the Upton Association. The Upton Association wishes to thank you for your participation.

Guidelines: PLEASE PRINT! Only one character is allowed for each block **including punctuation and spaces**. You could describe her with a phrase such as: Extraordinary teacher; Music was her life; Founder of our village; Cherished friend to all. Humorous or sentimental, use this opportunity to celebrate her life. If you wish us to notify the Honoree, list name and address:

4" x 8", 3 lines 14 characters per line; \$50

8" x 8", 6 lines 14 characters per line \$100

12"x 12", 9 lines 17 characters per line \$250

Questions? Contact Linda Davis at (330) 240-4668 or kewpish1@yahoo.com.

Please mail completed form with payment to:

Harriet Taylor Upton Association, PO Box 847, Warren, OH 44482-0847



380 MAHONING AVENUE NW
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