

# Oneida Community JOURNAL

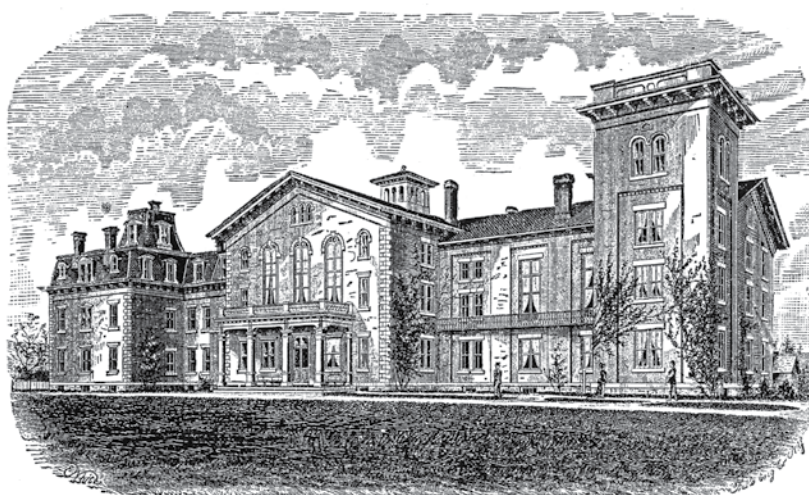
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ONEIDA COMMUNITY—FRONT VIEW OF THE MAIN BUILDING.



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# The ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE

## *A National Historic Landmark*

The ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE (OCMH) was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents as a non-profit museum in 1987. It is the only site to preserve and interpret the history of the Oneida Community, one of the most radical and successful of the 19th century social experiments. OCMH publishes the *Oneida Community Journal* to inform the public of the cultural and educational activities at the Mansion House and to present articles about social and historical topics of interest within the context of its mission.

**Send correspondence to:** Oneida Community Mansion House  
170 Kenwood Avenue  
Oneida, New York 13421  
Telephone: 315-363-0745  
E-mail: [ocmh@oneidacommunity.org](mailto:ocmh@oneidacommunity.org)

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Chairman of the Board and Interim Director .....	1
Photo Section .....	2
Education Programs and Words from Interns .....	4
New Exhibits.....	7
Kenwood Suffragettes .....	8
Quo Vadimus.....	8
New Books .....	9
Upcoming Events.....	10
Joseph Ackley and the Founding of the Oneida Community .....	11
OCMH Notes.....	12
Kenwood Notes.....	12
Additions and Subtraction.....	14
A Walk around the Mansion House, 1878 .....	14
New and Renewed Members .....	16
Donations to General Operating / Annual Fund.....	16

### COVER ILLUSTRATION

Above: Wood engraving from the *American Socialist*.

Below: The photo from which the print was prepared (see "A Walk around the Mansion House, 1878").

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### EDITOR

Anthony Wonderley, Ph.D.

### JOURNAL DESIGN & LAYOUT

Don Cornue

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Molly Jessup, Ph.D., *Curator of Education*  
Gwendolyn Trew, *Business Manager*  
Frankie Nicole Weaver, Ph.D., *Curator of Collections*

## MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND INTERIM DIRECTOR

*Jonathan Pawlika and Patricia A. Hoffman*

We should begin by acknowledging that while the organization may be in a challenging state of transition at this time with a change in leadership, the Board of Trustees is confident that the growth and tremendous development that has occurred over the last decade, indeed since the non-profit was formed in 1987, will continue.

Patricia was retained as Interim Director in mid-June to manage the organization during our search for a new Executive Director. The long-time professional and support staff continues their excellent work in maintaining and preserving the building and grounds, offering diverse and outstanding educational and artistic programming, managing the business office, facility rentals and apartments, overseeing the museum store, providing professional housekeeping and guest services, and keeping the lawns and gardens in continual beautiful condition.

We take great pleasure in announcing that Tony Wonderley has returned as Editor of this Oneida Community Journal and we heartily welcome his scholarship. Frankie Weaver is returning as full-time Curator of Collections and we look forward to the new exhibit she's planning in the Gorman Gallery.

Amy Gebhardt, Greg Owens and Tina Wayland-Smith, Attorney at Law, recently joined the Board of Trustees and we are pleased to have their enthusiasm and expertise in human resources, design, public relations, business and law. A heartfelt thank-you to Wilber Allen who has accepted the position of Secretary of the Board of Trustees and all will be formally elected at the annual meeting in November.

The loss to this organization of descendants, residents, and trustees Peter Gebhardt and Giles Wayland-Smith cannot be fathomed at times. Yet it is at times like this when others step up to fill the void. We thank the members of the Board of Trustees who have done just that, the donors who have come forth with additional gifts during this transition, and, of course, the many dedicated staff and volunteers.

The Oneida Community welcomed change knowing it was necessary for growth and prosperity. We invite you to join us in doing the same.



*Aerial view of the Mansion House and the Sales Office, the Oneida company's administrative building (about 1940).*

## PHOTOS



*Historic Preservation Slate workshop with Jeff Levine and Julia Palmer of Levine and Company*



*Historian Carol Faulkner during the Women and Gender discussion series*



*Industry Then and Now: Mansion House and Liberty Tabletop Factory Tour in July  
(courtesy Rhiannon Martin)*





*Marco Antonio Mazzini performing with Silverwood Clarinet Choir, July 30  
(courtesy Rhiannon Martin)*



*Campers sketching the Summer House with Mary Thompson  
(courtesy Rhiannon Martin)*



*Building bird houses with Lowe's Home Improvement  
at Arbor Day (courtesy Mary Perra)*



*Pody Vanderwall keynote address at the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild  
(courtesy Patricia Hoffman)*

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

By Molly Jessup

*The warm weather months have brought a lot of different activities and visitors to the Mansion House.*

*The diversity of what we offer is particularly evident this time of year.*

*Below are some of the recent highlights in our programming.*

### Discussion Series

Our 2017 discussion series theme was "Women and Gender." Supported by a Humanities New York action grant, the series addressed the theme in different historical circumstances as well as its relevance to pressing contemporary challenges. This approach situated the utopian community's experience in a larger framework of history, arguing for the importance and relevance of the ideas brought forth by the Perfectionists. Audiences enjoyed discussions with Carol Faulkner, Beth LeGere, Jason Newton, and Tamar Carroll from February to June.

Our 2018 discussion series is "Beyond Belief: Religion and Social Practice." Our discussions will be held from February-May 2018, monthly on Sunday afternoons. In the series, we will consider how various faith practices and critiques of faith have shaped our society, socially, politically, and culturally. Please join us in February for the first discussion, "Religion, Eugenics, and the Oneida Community."

### Nature Programs

The Mansion House is part of a 33-acre area, with hiking trails, gardens, and Sunset Lake. This April, we had two environmentally-focused programs. On Earth Day, we organized a hike and litter clean-up around Sunset Lake. Unfortunately, there was plenty of litter to collect! Thank you to those who participated in the clean-up effort and we hope you will join us again next year. In the meantime, we appreciate everyone's carry-in-carry-out stewardship of the lake area.

The Mansion House also organized an Arbor Day observation with programs, educational talks, and craft activities. From its founding in 1872, Arbor Day has been a time to plant new trees and to reflect on the importance of environmental planning for future generations. At our site, BOCES student volunteers planted Black Walnuts from our state champion tree. The walnuts were cultivated throughout the winter under the supervision of Buildings and Grounds director Mike Colmey, and Amy Walker and Brenda Frost, BOCES teachers.

The Arbor Day program included many organizations and volunteers, and we are grateful for their participation. The City of Oneida joined us to officially declare our Arbor Day celebration under way. Bartlett Tree Experts donated tree saplings and Steve Blair of Bartlett climbed the Black Walnut, which impressed the visitors! We thank our program participants: Vernon-Verona-Sherrill's Future Farmers of America, the Utica Zoomobile, Shako:wi

Cultural Center, Bob Meekin of Captor Wildlife Services, Megan Gillander of the Oneida Public Library, musicians David Deacon and Deb Justice, and Lowe's Home Improvement, who sponsored the building of bird houses for Arbor Day.

*Save the dates for next year: Earth Day is Sunday, April 22, 2018 and our Arbor Day program is Saturday, April 28, 2018.*

### Historic Preservation

On April 8, the Mansion House hosted a historic preservation workshop on Slate and Slate Roofing with Jeffrey Levine and Julie Palmer, preservation specialists with Levine & Company, Inc., Ardmore, Pennsylvania. Participants from nearby institutions engaged in hands-on learning about varieties of slate and its maintenance. Our sincere thanks to the John Ben Snow Foundation for funding this program.

On September 9, Scott Lupini of Lupini Construction, Inc. will lead a workshop, titled "Brick and Mortar: Cliff Notes for Successful Masonry Repair Project." Lupini Construction has undertaken a number of masonry projects throughout the state, including the West Point MacArthur Long Barracks, the Horticulture Building at the New York State Fairgrounds, Hamilton College's Chapel, and Syracuse University Place of Remembrance. The September 9 workshop will address the four main processes of repair: to identify, investigate, document, and execute. The workshop is an excellent opportunity for those who own or maintain buildings that employ masonry. We look forward to a great workshop.

### Children's Summer Camp

Our summer day camp for children ages 7-12 remains a highlight of the season. Campers began their week by learning about the Mansion House and its history, with a special emphasis on what it means to be part of a community. They also learned how a museum cares for its collections during a lesson with collections registrar Courtney Bastian, discovered nature on the trails with environmental educator Judd Olshan, created marbled art and summer house watercolors with volunteer Mary Thompson, and learned how to identify architectural features with Rhiannon Martin. Our Colgate Fellow Erin Burke developed team building exercises and the "History Mystery" program for campers. A special thanks to docent and volunteer Tim Cummings, who introduced the campers to croquet,

arguably everyone's new favorite game. Our winter camp sessions will be December 27-29.

## Looking Ahead to Fall and Winter

We have a number of programs lined up for the fall, including special tours, outdoor programs, and a new take on the holiday favorite "A Christmas Carol." Check our website or Facebook pages for updates on all programming.

## Internships

OCMH greatly benefits from a dedicated team of docents and other volunteers. This summer we also benefited from the presence of two public program interns: Rhiannon Martin and Erin Burke. Rhiannon joined us from Southeast Missouri State University, where she majored in Historic Preservation. During her time here, Rhiannon developed an architecture program for the children's summer camp, presented the Architectural Walking Tour of the Mansion House and Kenwood, and led guided house tours.

Erin Burke was a fellow with Colgate University's Upstate Initiative, which connects students to opportunities with non-profits. A History major and Museum Studies minor at Colgate, Erin's project included working with children's programming at OCMH, evaluating existing programming, and making recommendations for future children's programming. She was a significant contributor to the success of our summer camp, designing educational activities that brought history to life for our campers.

Their articles (immediately following) describe the importance of their projects to our overall mission and to public history more broadly. We're grateful for their contributions, look forward to hearing about their continued success and hope they can visit us again in the future.



*Day campers at the Mansion House this summer*

## Why Preservation Matters

*By Rhiannon Martin*

"When you strip away the rhetoric, preservation is simply having the good sense to hold on to things that are well designed, that link us with our past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them." These words were spoken by Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation at the First Church of Christ, in Berkeley, CA on March 27, 2008. When asked if it is important to save historic buildings and artifacts from our past, most people would respond that yes, it is important. If you were to ask them *why* preservation is important, a lot of those same people may not know how to answer beyond "because it just is."

There are numerous advantages to historic preservation. Moe's quote highlights the core values of what historic preservation means; however, historic preservation is more than that. Preservation is an all-encompassing field that includes museum studies, archives and collections, laws and regulations, and the built environment. This article will focus on the advantages of preserving and working with built environment, particularly historic architecture, and how this is advantageous to the Oneida Community Mansion House (OCMH).

Resources such as historic houses and public buildings are not only important to preserve for aesthetic reasons, but also because these structures tell stories on both a local and national level. In November 2015, the National Trust for Historic Preservation published a list of six reasons to save old buildings. One of the reasons listed is that old buildings are reminders of a city's culture and complexity. By looking at the architecture of OCMH and the Kenwood neighborhood, observers can learn a lot about the inhabitants from the architecture alone. For example, with the 1862 portion of the Mansion House, someone who knows nothing about the Oneida Community can see that it is a large building with robust materials and a somewhat grandeur design style, and can surmise that the original inhabitants were financially sound and prosperous people. If this person were to continue to examine the whole Mansion House, he or she would see evidence of the growth and prosperity of the Community just through the architecture. If the Mansion House was gone, it would be hard to imagine the grandeur of the Mansion House through pictures alone.

Right under the logo of the Oneida Community Mansion House is the phrase "A National Historic Landmark." What many people may not realize is that this is an actual designation from the government, not just the organization declaring its

*Cont'd. next page*



national importance. National Historic Landmarks are historic properties that are part of the cultural and material heritage of the United States. There are only about 2,500 historic places that can claim this national distinction. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 both set preservation as a priority for the government and provided citizens with tools to actively help preserve what they deem important. The National Register of Historic Places is another tool in preservation to help signify and save what is important to the fabric of a community's heritage.

When preserving buildings, it may be easy to fall into the trap of only preserving grand or elaborate buildings. Buildings that aren't grand in design or elaborate with decorations may be seen as just "plain 'ole farm houses" and subsequently neglected or demolished. The old Children's House from the Oneida Community (297 Kenwood), is one of the two properties near the Mansion House that is a folk style rather than a decorative style. Folk or vernacular style houses have the tendency to be forgotten when compared to more grandeur buildings. With an upsurge in the 1960s for telling "history from the bottom up," buildings such as 297 Kenwood started becoming just as important as their decorative counterparts in the eyes of architectural historians. For the Mansion House and its visitors, the preservation of this building provides a piece of the Community's history from before the building of the current Mansion House (1862), when the Community moved from Putney, Vermont to Oneida.

On Saturday, August 12th, OCMH hosted an architectural walking tour to share the stories of the houses of Kenwood and how they were tied to the Oneida Community and how the built environment reflects social practice. The tour included thirteen properties, including the Mansion House and former Oneida Ltd. Administration building. Tour participants learned about the architecture and individual styles of the houses in the Kenwood neighborhood, how these reflected changes in American culture, and about the architects that brought the designs to life. Theodore Skinner and Ward Wellington Ward, architects of several houses in the neighborhood, also were known for their own contributions to architecture elsewhere in the country. Importantly, the program addressed the centrality of preservation for OCMH and the surrounding community.

Author Bill Bryson once said: "You would think the millions of people who come to Williamsburg every year would say to each other, 'Gosh, Bobbi, this place is beautiful. Let's go home to Smellville...and preserve all the fine old buildings.' But in fact that never occurs to them. They

just go back...build more parking lots and Pizza Huts." Preservation does not just have to be on a national scale, focusing on monuments and homes of those that helped to found the country. Even the story of the Oneida Community is integral to the story of America, the grand Mansion House standing as a testament and living artifact to this Community. If care and proper steps are not taken to preserve this precious artifact, it could fall into the pages of history, becoming only a story instead of the living testament it is now. Preservation matters...so, what part can you play in it?

## Children's Programming

By Erin Burke

There have always been children at the Mansion House. The Oneida Community cared about their children deeply – all Community members were to love all children as if they were their own. Memoirs of childhoods at the Mansion House tell engrossing and endearing stories of friendship, exploration, love, excitement, fun, mistakes and mischief (e.g., C. A. Noyes's *Days of My Youth* and P. B. Noyes's *My Father's House*). This places the OCMH in a position to engage with younger learners and visitors. As we developed our new strategic plan last year, children emerged as a significant target audience for us. Hence, we have been expanding our children's programming to bring these new and younger visitors to the museum.

In the OCMH strategic plan, we had devised two methods to make our site a resource for younger audiences--first, by increasing school outreach. Our education department is also in the process of surveying teachers at elementary and secondary schools in Madison, Oneida, and Onondaga counties to assess their needs. We will collaborate with these local teachers to evaluate our programming in light of changing curricular standards. In this way, our "Children of the Mansion House" program will have continued relevancy and will be accessible to educators and their students.

Second, we are developing intergenerational programs that seek to encourage collaborative learning between parents and their children. One such program was on June 17, when OCMH partnered with New York State's *Path through History Weekends* and hosted its first day of "Family Tours." These tours are a shortened and more interactive version of the standard house tour and seek to attract families with younger children ages 8-12. While learning about family life at the Mansion House, families have the opportunity to engage with hands-on activities, such as a round



of the Oneida Community's favorite game – croquet. To further encourage family visits, we are developing tours that feature diverse areas of our site and programs that will encourage learning together. Offering hands-on programs stimulating parent-child interaction is a proven way not only to increase the time families spend in the exhibits, but also to increase a child's retention of material learned at the museum.

A major feature of our children's programming is our day camp program for children, which is now in its second year. For the week of July 17-21, laughter rang through the halls and an air of youthful exuberance emanated through the house as children ages 7-12 came to OCMH for camp. This year, campers learned about the history of the Oneida Community, Mansion House architecture, the surrounding environment, and what it means to embody the "we-spirit" of the Oneida Community and share and communicate with your family and peers. The OCMH also had a winter camp in

2016, which we intend to offer again this upcoming winter. The reviews of our camp have been overwhelmingly positive, and many campers expressed a wish that the camp continue for another week. There is already evidence that this program is helping the OCMH to build relationships with local families - many campers and their families have returned for multiple sessions of camp or other events.

The development of children's programming here has many benefits. First and foremost, it brings the vitality, imagination, and excitement of children into our museum space. Additionally, these new programs will help the OCMH increase children's familiarity with and interest in the museum field and in the Mansion House. The development of children's programming ultimately benefits the institution by cultivating and inspiring a new generation of historians, curators, and archivists who will become the next generation of caretakers for our site, museum, and legacy.

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## NEW EXHIBITS

*By Frankie Nicole Weaver*

**H**ello from OCMH collections! This past February I began working part-time as the curator of collections for the Mansion House. Unfortunately, in early summer I fractured my fibula and thus spent the summer waiting for my ankle to heal. This September, I will return to the Mansion House as the full-time curator of collections, and I am looking forward to developing two upcoming exhibitions.

Late fall 2017 the Gorman Gallery will transition from the architectural drawing exhibition to a temporary display that explores this year's theme of gender by considering complex marriage, work, and property. The exhibition "Slavery and Marriage: Communal Responses to 19th century America," will examine relationships between men and women during the Oneida Community years through examining the lives of some of the OC members.

Building on central concepts associated with the museum's guided house tour, the exhibition will help visitors to learn more about how complex marriage functioned, relationships between OC men and women, and how the Oneida Community's practices compared to mainstream American society. As an extension of the new display visitors will receive character card lanyards. The

character cards provide an image and description of an OC community member. For instance, Harriet Maria Worden and Cornelia Worden's cards highlight and connect to the exhibition concepts of complex marriage and parenthood, labor, shared property, and marriage post-community. The exhibition will encourage visitors to think about the diverse experiences of individual community members.

By early 2018 a display on the new theme, religion and beliefs, will replace the fall presentation. The 2018 exhibition will examine the Second Great Awakening, situating the Oneida Community among the religious environment in 19th century New York. It places the perfectionist movement in the broader context of the Christian revival movements occurring roughly between Buffalo and Albany, in the region termed, the "burned-over district."

If you have questions or comments related to the OCMH collections feel free to send me a message (by emailing [fnweaver@oneidacommunity.org](mailto:fnweaver@oneidacommunity.org)), or drop in and visit me at the Mansion House. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @OCMH1848 and the Oneida Community Mansion House Facebook webpage, and check [oneidacommunity.org](http://oneidacommunity.org) for updated information on exhibitions and developments related to OCMH collections.

## Kenwood Suffragettes

(see "From the Past" photo)

Mansion House women active on behalf of the suffrage cause included Lotta Kinsley (1888-1955), a child of Oneida Community parents and wife of company executive Ab Kinsley. A diary she kept in the early 1920s is largely an account of taking care of children (three) and keeping the domestic environment in order with a husband seldom around. The work exhausted her and often threatened, in her estimation, to overwhelm her. Yet she found some means to engage the world politically on her own idealistic terms, first on behalf of the women's suffrage movement. In 1916, Lotta's mother-in-law (Jessie Kinsley) reported "a fine parade" in Sherrill's Noyes Park in which "the suffrage club marched in good form: a line of 40 or 50 women dressed in white bedecked with yellow. Lotta was everywhere present to guide and arrange. Then she worked hard and long in preparing competent committees for a suffrage booth in the park, and refreshments to be served in the booth" (*A Lasting Spring*, Jane K. Rich ed., p. 145).

Several years later, Lotta ran as a candidate for the state senate representing Norman Thomas' Socialist Party of America. "I am glad to be working for a most worthy cause," she wrote of the latter experience. "What could be better than trying to bring about a better social order and to eliminate suffering from the world by striking at the base of economic disease?" She had no time to campaign and, when the election was over, she dropped by the Mansion House library "to look at the paper to see how much of a vote I polled...I got about one thousand votes in the district. That was very fair for the socialist ticket. The Republicans won, of course, hands down" (Carlotta Cragin Kinsley diary, Nov. 4, 1923).

Another activist was Christine Hamilton Allen (1875-1952), an Oneida Community stirpicult married to another stirpicult, company executive Grosvenor Allen. Through the League of Women Voters, Allen became friends with Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of New York Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt. When F. D. R. received the nomination for the President of the United States in 1932, the couple flew from Albany to the Democratic Convention in Chicago buzzing the Mansion House along the way (*A Lasting Spring*, p. 218). [AW]

## Quo Vadimus

(see "From the Past" photo)

Remarks by Pierrepont B. Noyes at the annual meeting of shareholders and executives of the Oneida Community, Ltd., 1912 (Excerpted from *The Quadrangle*, January, 1913, pp.10-11)

We sometimes have difficulty in describing our organization. A new definition would be: "A Society for attaining real happiness." It takes money to make any institution go. I am not at all antagonistic to money as a means. It is a fine thing; but as an end I heartily despise it. This society has, I believe, from the beginning of its history...aimed at finding a direct road to happiness... We are learning to use the real recipe for happiness, which as everyone knows (and the older they grow the more they know it) consists in doing something for someone besides ourselves. No one is really on the road to happiness, until he learns this practically.

The key-note of the last two years, and the thing which I see right ahead of this Society, is the opening up of a field for this most successful method of pursuing happiness—a broader field for dividing our lives and efforts with others.

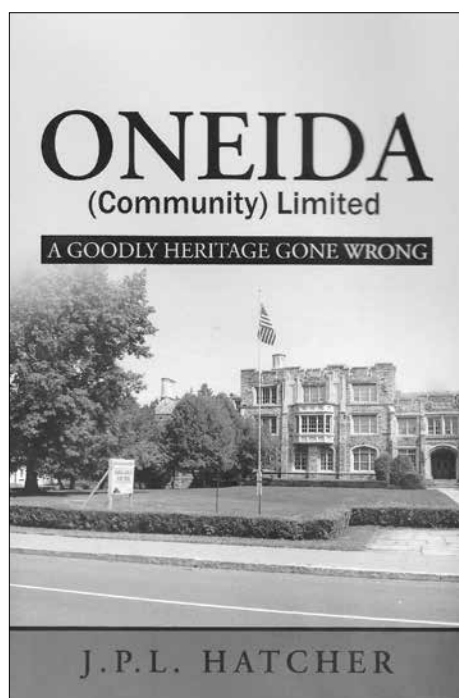
We are living in times of revolution. We are living in times when society is going to change its systems...It is abroad in the land that no longer can the old problems of capital and labor be ignored. No longer can the working class be bullied or bribed to lie still. There must be a settlement...

As I look at the great struggle today with its various militant movements, its party cries, its extravagant claims, its absurd and sometimes dangerous platforms, I think I see beyond them all, another great step in the world's progress emerging. The laboring man is to be emancipated—not from labor, not from wage labor, but from wage slavery. He is going to earn something besides a living. A good workman is going to receive wages that will enable him if thrifty, to accumulate property, to buy a house and be as responsible and self-respecting a member of Society as the manufacturer and merchant have been. It will come about that a family man can expect to have leisure to enjoy that home and his family, and to develop himself. With all its annoyances, the struggle will continue under one form or another until some such result is accomplished.

The O. C. L. has grown into a large institution. We have done some of this work on the inside of our organization, and now it is up to us make it one of our serious aims to coordinate our own development with this great movement toward the amelioration of the working class...

I am perfectly convinced that this company instead of following any of the fancy schemes that capitalists are devising to bribe labor, can afford to step boldly forward into the open and contribute to the result...A self-respecting course for us is to arrange our systems irrespective of what other manufacturers may do, so that the working man will get a bigger share of the product of his labor...Before we are ten years older—before we are 5 years older—I believe we shall feel a little ashamed if each employee who is honest and efficient cannot own his own home if he wants to.

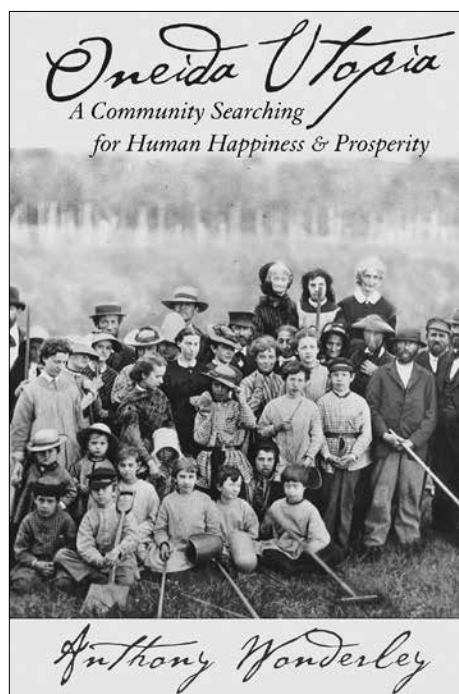
## NEW BOOKS



Oneida (Community) Limited:  
A Goodly Heritage Gone Wrong  
By J. P. L. Hatcher  
2016, iUniverse  
(Available in the Mansion House Gift Shop)

This book provides the last chapter of a wonderful American story that began in the mid 1800s with a famous utopia, a program for harmonious group living. The Oneida Community continued through the 1900s as a manufacturing company (Oneida Community, Ltd.) that became the largest maker of silverware in the world. The story ends in failure and failed management during the early 2000s, sad events detailed here for the first time.

In addition to providing historical background, the book charts the company's economic ups and downs in the manner of an annual report. It is a discursive financial balance sheet leading up to an analysis of the collapse. It is, finally, a memoir of Oneida Ltd., a first-hand picture of top company executives.



Oneida Utopia: A Community Searching  
for Human Happiness and Prosperity  
Anthony Wonderley  
(Available in the Mansion House Gift Shop in late December)

Oneida Utopia is a fresh and holistic treatment of a long-standing social experiment born of revival fervor and communitarian enthusiasm. The Oneida Community of upstate New York was dedicated to living as one family and to the sharing of all property, work, and love. Anthony Wonderley is a sensitive guide to the things and settings of Oneida life from its basis in John H. Noyes's complicated theology, through experiments in free love and gender equality, to the moment when the commune transformed itself into an industrial enterprise based on the production of silverware. Rather than drawing a sharp boundary between spiritual concerns and worldly matters, Wonderley argues that commune and company together comprise a century-long narrative of economic success, innovative thinking, and abiding concern for the welfare of others.

Oneida Utopia seamlessly combines the evidence of social life and intellectual endeavor with the testimony of built environment and material culture. Wonderley shares with readers his intimate knowledge of evidence from the Oneida Community: maps and photographs, quilts and furniture, domestic objects and industrial products, and the biggest artifact of all, their communal home. Wonderley also takes a novel approach to the thought of the commune's founder, examining individually and in context Noyes's reactions to interests and passions of the day, including revivalism, millennialism, utopianism, and spiritualism.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MANSION HOUSE

**September 8: Bricks and Mortar: Cliff Notes for a Successful Masonry Repair Project (10:30 am-12 pm)**

*Join us for a historic preservation workshop about masonry with Scott Lupini of Lupini Construction. The workshop will address the four main processes of repair: identify, investigate, document, and execute. Don't wait, registration required!*

**September 23: Museum Day Live! (all day)**

*Co-sponsored with the Smithsonian, free admission with SI voucher (available on-line).*

**October 7: Industry and Manufacturing, Then and Now (10:30 am)**

*Learn about industrial history of the Oneida Community by viewing objects from our collection that were used in the Community's factory (built 1863) and then tour the historic factory to see Sherrill Manufacturing's Liberty Tabletop, the only domestic manufacturer of silverware. Don't wait, advance registration required!*

**October 21: International Archeology Day (10:30 am)**

*The Oneida Community built a communal home consisting of dozens of buildings and hundreds of acres of land, which they used to support their specific ways of life, work, and thought. Seek out evidence of those past uses and locate built evidence to re-imagine how life was lived by the Oneida Community, its regional antecedents and descendants, through an exploration the 19th century OC site (first Mansion House, Burt farmstead, O&M RR, etc.)*

**October 28: Oneida Community Cemetery Tour**

*Explore 19th c. mourning culture in the OC Cemetery. Don't wait, registration required!*

**October 30: Séances and Spiritualism in the 1800s**

*Uncover the past with our program on the Community's interest in spiritualism and séances.*

**November 5: The Game of Life: The Great Peterboro Baseball Story (2pm)**

*The play, written by Tom Murray, is a comedy focusing on the first recorded baseball game played by girls that occurred in Peterboro, N.Y., in August 1868. Major characters are based on historical figures, such as Gerrit Smith and his wife Ann, their granddaughter Nannie Miller and Smith's cousin, the famous Suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton. But, taking liberties with history, the play adds to the mix of suffragettes and abolitionists some residents of Peterboro's Home for Destitute Children, a charitable home founded by Gerrit Smith in 1871.*

*The OPL Players, directed by Virginia Drake with the assistance of Ken Drake, will be performing. The play features Ken Drake as Gerrit Smith, Virginia Drake as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Kathy Brodeur as the Village Busybody. Music and songs of the period, including Suffragette anthems, will be provided by members of the Craobh Dugan Irish players, led by Bill Fahy.*

**December 2: A Christmas Carol with Breadcrumbs Productions**

*An innovative take on a holiday classic.*

**December 27-29: Children's Winter Camp**

*A day camp for ages 7 to 12. Campers will explore the National Historic Landmark site under the expert guidance of history educators from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm each day. Camp activities include hands-on, inquiry-based explorations of 19th and early 20th century buildings and objects, art projects, and outdoor wintertime activities.*

**February: Behind the Scenes**

*Discover what's behind closed doors. Participants will visit attic spaces, basements, and towers of the historic landmark and see materials in the Oneida Community Mansion House collection.*

**February: Discussion Series: "Religion, Eugenics, and the Oneida Community"**

**March 8: International Women's Day**

*In recognition of International Women's Day, our guided tours at 10:00am and 2:00pm will explore the role of women and gender equality within the Oneida Community and their interactions with the encompassing world. The tour will also include a presentation of special items from our collection.*

**April 22: Earth Day at the Mansion House**

*Hike the pathway around Sunset Lake and pitch in to take care of our environment in our litter clean-up!*

**April 28: Arbor Day at the Mansion House**

*Nature-Based activities and demonstrations for all ages*

**Additional donation may apply. For further information, and reservations, please call: 315-363-0745.**

## JOSEPH ACKLEY AT THE FOUNDING OF THE ONEIDA COMMUNITY

*As remembered by his granddaughter, Corinna Ackley Noyes:*

[My grandfather was] “endowed with spiritual curiosity and the urge to seek spiritual truth, no matter where it led him or what sacrifices it entailed. Not all the facts are available, but from some source Joseph and two spiritually-minded neighbors, William Hatch and Daniel Nash, had evidently come upon the writings of John Humphrey Noyes and had become so impressed with his ideas that they had started a small, semi-communal group at Beaver Meadow. Then came the chance to attend the three-day meetings held at the home of John Foote at Lairdsville, New York, a small village within driving distance of Beaver Meadow, and there he met John Noyes in the flesh and heard him expound his theories of Perfectionism.

“The result was that Grandpa, the Nashes and Hatches became full-fledged converts at once and decided to ask Mr. Jonathan Burt, an ardent convert, whom they had met at Lairdsville, if they might join him at Oneida. Burt had been a Noyes disciple for eleven years, while living at the time in the nearby village of Chittenango, but within the year he had bought the old Indian sawmill and forty-acre wood lot on Oneida Creek. However, in trying to do most of the work of felling trees, hauling logs to the mill and doing the mill work himself, his health had broken down and he was obliged to hire help. When Grandpa suggested joining with all the Beaver Meadow group, Mr. Burt promptly accepted.

“The sharing spirit had taken hold of these people to such an extent that the Burts offered to take Grandpa, his wife and two children, into their own small home for the month during which he, Mr. Nash and Mr. Hatch were building the rude structure that was all they could afford, in time and money, to house their families. As may be imagined, the next year was one of hardship, cold and



*Joseph and Julia Ackley, late 1840s*

crowded living in a house so hastily built that it scarcely deserved the name. They had only frugal fare and incessant hard work, yet the spirit of Perfectionism triumphed, and conditions were met happily and without complaint” (*Days of My Youth*, pp. 33-34).

\*\*\*

Ackley and the others were convinced they had found the meaning of existence in Noyes’ Perfectionist teachings. As devout believers, they joined Noyes in his purpose and, in so doing, dedicated

themselves to what they saw as the highest possible cause. Ackley tried to explain this sentiment to his granddaughter in a letter dated 1892:

“Well, 45 years ago this morning I started out in the mud and rain with your Grandmother and three little children, the youngest your mother, a baby about nine months old, for this place...Rain and sleety snow accompanied us on our journey all day. Outwardly everything seemed very unpropitious, but inwardly there was hope and joy. Do I hear you asking what was our motive and why did you leave friends and a father’s house and go among strangers? I will tell you briefly. The thought did not once pass through our minds of finding a better home or of accumulating money or worldly honor or fame in any way. We had our eyes fixed upon something that seemed far more lasting than anything this world can give. There was something within us that made us think and feel that we were called of God to unite with a people who we believed loved God with all their hearts and were not selfish but were laboring to build up a society where the love of God should be the prevailing spirit. In taking this step I lost my good name, my worldly fortune, was disinherited by parents, and for years had no other expectation than that I was forever disinherited” (Oneida Community Mansion House Archives).

### OCHM NOTES

The Oneida story received national coverage in an episode of NPR's "Planet Money" (podcast and radio program) in early June. Correspondent Noel King featured interviews with Doctors Ellen Wayland-Smith (author of *Oneida: From Free Love Utopia to the Well-Set Table*) and Anthony Wonderley (author of *Oneida Utopia*). You can link up with this at: <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2017/06/09/532303452/episode-777-free-love-free-market>.

Resigned as an OCMH volunteer: Walter Lang, Jr—leading expert on Oneida Community

genealogy and many aspects of the Mansion House (including the Best Quilt), and a scholar who researched his own tour of the "Big." Above all, Walt—for nearly two decades--was Mansion House guide without peer who conducted 771 tours to about 4,800 visitors. He is in Florida with wife Lois who also contributed to this place as an originator of the "Children of the Mansion House" program and as member of the Education and Public Service committee. Thank you, Walt and Lois, for your contributions. You made a big mark and we are grateful.

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### KENWOOD NOTES

A Red Oak tree, one of the largest and oldest (estimated to be over 150 years old) and located on the northwest grounds of the Oneida Community Cemetery, suffered heavy damage during a late spring wind storm. A huge limb pulled away from the trunk and landed in an area that includes many historic grave stones. Astonishingly, the limb did very little harm to the stone underneath, with the exception of one monument which was separated from its base. The Cemetery Committee is particularly grateful to Paul Gebhardt, who skillfully maneuvered his chain saw to cut the limb into massive logs and to the Mansion House crew who managed much of the cleanup and removal of the debris. The committee now must decide the old tree's fate. It is currently consulting with Steve Blair from Bartlett Free Experts for an estimate to treat it and at the same time is getting quotes from two local outfits to bring it down. Either way, this will be a costly endeavor, with a several-thousand-dollar estimate to cut the tree down and almost two thousand dollars to treat it and prune what remains, with no guarantee that the already damaged tree will be able to withstand another wind storm. Donations to the cemetery are always welcomed, particularly in light of the unanticipated expense associated with the damaged Red Oak.

A stray rooster found itself in Kelly and Neal's Sherrill neighborhood this summer. He made his presence known every ten minutes or so throughout the day and managed to meander back and forth across busy West Hamilton Ave. several times unscathed. The story has a happy ending. Two of "Sherrill's Finest," that is, roughly half of the city's police force, arrived by evening, gloved and equipped with nets. They managed to rescue the stray and relocated it to a local farm, but only after quite a struggle and some rather daring escape attempts by the fearless fowl.

Sue Campanie and Mary Burdick, both of Kenwood, have spearheaded a capital campaign for the Oneida Community Golf Course. The property includes areas of historic significance, including the Oneida Community Cemetery, the Larches, and Sunset Lake. The future of the golf course was uncertain in 2016 with a real possibility that it would be forced to close and the land would be left to revert to its wild state. Since then, the OCGC and OCMH have developed a new operational plan which will preserve the property as a golf course. The rainy spring and summer of this year, however, have not been good to the grounds. Over three inches of rain on July 1 resulted in the Oneida County side of the course being completely flooded by Oneida Creek. Volunteers have worked feverishly to restore the damaged fairways, but the weather continues to be rather unfavorable to the property and to the level of play. On the bright side, the City of Sherrill did sponsor a (rain free!) golf tournament in late July which, by all accounts, was a great success. Also, the OC golf course professional, Ruth Weydig, leads a children's golf program that draws forty kids from the area each week during the summer to learn the ropes of the game. The campaign has raised a respectable amount of money to date, but continued support of the golf course is always appreciated. [Kelly Rose]

On July 1, 2017, four years and four days after the historic flooding of Oneida Creek in 2013 that destroyed many homes in "The Flats" section of the City of Oneida, the creek once again over-ran its banks (see OC Journal, September 2013). And once again, this late spring flood was due to heavy rains and run-off from the neighboring hills.

As occurred in 2013, many of the homes to the east of Kenwood Avenue had up to two feet of water in their back yards and a large portion of the



Oneida Community Gold Course along the creek bed was under water. My Florida house guests took the opportunity to kayak in my yard-turned-lake.

Due to the ground being saturated from an incredibly wet spring this year, it took almost a week for the water to finally totally recede. The golf course was littered with logs, large branches and debris (including an upholstered chair!) and homeowners along the eastern leg of the Vineyard were left with large swaths of dead grass in their yards. [Kathy Garner]

The Sales Office (see photo, p.1): First off, I want to say how excited we are to be part of this new phase in the life of the Sales Office. Currently the ground floor of the building is occupied by several companies. These include FPM (an environmental remediation company), Bloom Yoga, Natural Remedies (a health and wellness company offering facials, massages, and acupuncture), Best Eye Photographer, and a few smaller businesses.

The first floor is under renovations for the Madison County Court system. The courts are planning to move into the building this September and begin holding court the first of October. The courts will occupy the building for eighteen months while the courthouse in Wampsville is being renovated.

While the courts are occupying the building, we plan to start on the construction of apartments. It is our intention to build nine apartments in phase one. These will be located in the red carpet area of the second floor and in the Legal Department on the third floor (that is, formerly of Oneida Ltd.). Phase two will include the construction of several more apartments in the finance wing. We will be marketing these apartments to retirees. As a side note, the building is being called "The Sales" and new signs will be erected soon. [Jody Hicks]

Seen at and over Kenwood, the Larches, and Sunset Lake: owls, eagles, osprey, a great egret (wow!), chimney swifts, families of wrens, cardinals, phoebes, woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers (the Larches), bluebirds, robins, blue jays, flickers, chickadees, nuthatches, tufted titmice, wood duck, bats, a stray rooster (see above), and deer—oh, dear, the deer. Despite more than twenty dogs in town, the deer savage gardens and landscaping and, despite warning signs for motorists, occasionally a deer comes to grief on the road.

Ferris Industries (Munnsville) and International Wire (former Knife Plant building) both send 18-wheelers through town numerous times a day. Ferris Industries will move its Munnsville Briggs-and-Stratton lawnmower operation to the former Oneida Ltd. Factory in Sherrill in January 2018.

Some changes in home ownership—

- Former John Marcellus house: Michael and Emily Goyer and sons Isaac and Silas. Emily Bridges Goyer is Pat Conley's niece (and granddaughter of Bob and Katherine Conley).
- Former Cindy and Jim Colway house: Mike and (Dr.) Erin Wight Thompson, Evelyn and Oscar. (Mike is Cindy and Jim's grandson, Mary and Steve Thompson's son).
- Former Sarah and Dwight Spitzer, (Kathy Ross and Herrick) house: Kathleen and John Miller who will soon move to the house from Oneida.
- Former Betty and Bob George (Joe Austin) house: Matt and Whitney Hall with children Leda, Edith, and Oliver.
- Former Landon house: Brenda and Frank Frey.
- Former Detrich house: Carol and Dan Shea.
- Former Kelly and Neal Rose house: Dr. Patrick Costello.

In your recollection, how many Kenwood houses have sleeping porches? 5?, nearer to 10?, nearer to 15? In your recollection, how many Kenwood houses have or had back (or second) staircases? 5?, nearer to 10?, nearer to 15? [Pody Vanderwall]

## ADDITIONS/SUBTRACTION

Josephine Willow Malm, born in February to Jessica and Peter Rose-Malm. "Josie" is the granddaughter of Kelly and Neal Rose

Ole Eugene Buchanan, born in July to Abby and Will Buchanan. Ole is the grandson of John and Sue Campanie.

### In Memory of Peter Gebhardt (1956-2017)

*Patricia A. Hoffman, Interim Director*

*When Tony asked me to write something about Peter for the Journal, I thought it most appropriate to submit what I said at his memorial service in the Mansion House Big Hall on April 22. The family had asked me to speak to his involvement with the organization as an Oneida Community Mansion House trustee during my tenure as Executive Director.*

When putting my thoughts together for today, I had a lot of difficulty characterizing this private, enigmatic man. It's easy to say that he joined the Mansion House Board of Trustees in 2010, assumed the chairmanship of the Historic Preservation Committee in 2013, and two years later was named Assistant Secretary of the Board and began attending Executive Committee meetings as well. He took his service very seriously, attended every meeting unless he was ill or it conflicted with something involving his family, read all materials ahead of time, responded promptly to every e-mail, and ran an efficient and productive meeting. He took my phone calls late at night when I'd had a particularly difficult day and when asked, carefully reviewed things I wanted to say or do.

When Peter moved into the Mansion House three years ago, he often told me, "I feel like I'm home." And like the three homes he restored in Kenwood, he repaired and restored many areas and furnishings in the Mansion House including these Oneida Community benches, and he fashioned a small drawer for the Stickley desk downstairs. He systematically and usually late at night worked on the windows in the Big Hall, the Upper Sitting Room and the Lounge, unsticking them and replacing their sash cords. He also became another set of eyes and ears after hours and routinely reported to me any out of the ordinary noises or events. Having him in the Mansion House gave me comfort.

In time, our professional relationship developed into a friendship which brought witty, insightful e-mails and cards offering everything from lighthearted tales of the escapades of distant relatives, to using the BBC as my homepage, naming the various NPR programs I might be interested in, advice on the costs of my house repairs, new music he'd found on You Tube, photographs taken bird watching with Nola, and beautiful arts and crafts pieces he'd discovered on E-Bay.

Elbert Hubbard, founder of the Roycroft--one of America's most successful Arts and Crafts communities, said, "Art is not a thing, it is a way." And that is how I have come at last to characterize who Peter was. He was a Way.

One day I sent an email to him asking him to stop by my office because there was something I wanted to talk to him about. He wrote back, "Why so mysterious? Is it good or bad? Only good news, my bad tank is full."

## A WALK AROUND THE MANSION HOUSE, 1878

These photos convey a sense of connectedness and deliberation. Lined up together, they look like a project to document the Mansion House from the outside, apparently beginning and ending with the New House. Community photographer D. Edson Smith may have set out to record the completion of that wing in late 1878. Then, perhaps, he thought to improve the occasion by photographing everything between the front and rear views of the new construction. Lugging a heavy camera around must have been time consuming. Not surprisingly, therefore, more than one time of day and perhaps more than one day is registered in this series. [AW]





1. North façade of the New House (right) with apparent construction shed and signs of recent building activity.

2. North face of the Mansion House and North Tower (left).

3. Front (east facade) of the Mansion House.

4. Viewer looks northwest toward the front of the Mansion House.

5. An alternate version of previous.

6. The south façade.

7. Another view of the south facade. The children's playhouse (1875) is visible left foreground. To its right is the "Vault," a semi-subterranean construction leading into the basement of the children's wing. It was used for storing coal and wood as well as for collecting and removing the "night soil" from the toilets (earth closets).

8. West end of the children's wing.

9. Back of the Tontine. Jutting out from it to the left is the annex Martin Kinsley built (1874) to enlarge the dining area.

10. The New House viewed from within the Quadrangle. In the left foreground is the "Concrete" built in the late 1850s as a fruit-preserving facility.

11. View of the south face of the New House showing much of the Quadrangle. The odd-looking stone feature (upper right foreground) is the "Small Reservoir," a cistern from which water was conveyed into the building.



## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

*Gifts and renewals March 4, 2017 - July 31, 2017*

**Benefactor**  
Hope Owen McMahon

**Contributor**  
Ellie & Nigel Bolland  
Geoffrey & Lois Ezell  
Billie & David Hill  
Sara Orton  
Pamela E. Parker

**Associate**  
Jennifer Allen &  
Dr. William Luria  
Nancy Cammann  
Don & Cathy Cornue  
Christine &  
Wilber Noyes Earl  
Linda Evans  
Natalie Gustafson  
Annabel Smith Haley  
Donald & Jane Hanlon  
Elizabeth Hill Munroe  
David & Joyce Newhouse  
Geoffrey & Kristi Noyes  
Janet & William Pasnau

Holly & Jonathan Pawlika  
James & Nancy Pawlika  
Michael Tomlan  
Charlotte Tuttle  
Carole & Joseph Valesky  
Bruce &  
Patricia Wayland-Smith  
Judith Wellman  
Barbara & James Yonai

**Family/Household**  
Dorothy & Ivan Becker  
Barbara Busch  
Nancy Daley  
Norman Dann &  
Dorothy Willsey  
Eugene & Judith Durso  
Graham Egerton &  
Anne B. Redfern  
Jeffrey & Margaret Fischbeck  
Geraldine Haskell  
Carmelina & Robert Jones  
John & Kathy King  
Eileen Kinsella &  
Dennis Sands

Dan & Mickey Kissane  
Meredith Leonard &  
Edward Pitts  
Gerald & Virginia Lyons  
Beal & Barbara Marks  
Donald & Patricia McIntosh  
Edmond & Susanne Miller  
Greyson Pannill &  
Peter Siersma  
Barbara Rivette  
Howard & Keith Rubin  
Charles & Gretchen Sprock  
Joanne & Richard Vindigni  
Ellen & Joseph Wayland-Smith  
John & Karen Wellman  
Art & Shirley Zimmer

**Individual**  
Xavier Alvarez, M.D.  
Bruce Burke  
Robert Christenson  
Linda Cochran  
Polly Darnell  
Christine Dascher  
Shirley Drummond

Jo English  
Wanda Herrick  
William Hicks  
Barbara Hopsicker  
Ellin Irwin  
Esther Kanipe  
Betty Kordus  
Nairn Marks Kucharik  
Lois Vivian Light  
William Marchak  
Mary Mero  
Patricia Milnes  
Thomas Noyes  
Barbara Nurnberger  
Theresa Phillips  
Tomlinson Rauscher  
Mary Lou Rosecrantz  
Carol Salerno  
Barbara Sanderson  
Randy Schaal  
Bob Staudt  
Margaret Stevens  
Leonard Strauss  
Scott Swayze  
Terry Tubbs

## TO GENERAL OPERATING/ANNUAL FUND

### \$1,000 and above

*Kenwood Benevolent Society*

### \$1,001 TO \$6,000

Katherine Garner *(To Lawns and Gardens to purchase a lawn mower)*

### \$1,000 AND ABOVE

Sherrill-Kenwood Community Chest *(Education)*

### \$500-\$1,000

Robert Fogarty  
Andy Ingalls & Jane Noyes  
Rhoda Vanderwall *(JCK Braidings)*

### \$250-\$499

Alan & Josephine Noyes *(Sustaining Monthly Gift)*  
Karen & Paul Solenick *(Building Fund)*

### \$100-\$249

Morris Atwood *(35 hardcover books added to the Residents' Library)*  
Pauline Caputi & Anthony Wonderley *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Gregory & Nancy Carlson  
Annabel Smith Haley *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
IBM Corporation *(Matching Gift)*  
Lois & Walt Lang *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Geoffrey & Kristi Noyes

### Up to \$100

Patricia Bielicki *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Christine Bishop *(To the Library In Appreciation of Judy Noyes)*  
Bruce Burke  
Susan and S. John Campanie *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Eric Conklin & Trine Vanderwall  
Althea Davis  
James & Mary Jane Fox *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Katherine Garner *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Katherine Garner *(In Memory of Leota Hill)*  
Katherine Garner *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Cindy Gyorgy *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Geraldine Haskell *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Patricia Hoffman *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Carleton Laidlaw *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Jeannette Noyes *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Mark Perry *(Cemetery Fund Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Kelly & Neal Rose *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Kelly & Neal Rose *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Barbara Sanderson *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Ellen & Joseph Wayland-Smith *(To Lawns & Gardens In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Ellen & Joseph Wayland-Smith *(To Lawns & Gardens In Memory of Giles Wayland-Smith)*  
Kate Wayland-Smith *(In Memory of Frank Perry)*  
Claudia Wiley *(In Memory of Peter Gebhardt)*  
Claudia Wiley *(In Memory of Roger Alan Hoffman)*

### GRANTS

Greater Hudson Heritage Network *(Conservation)*  
New York State Council on the Arts *(Professional Development)*

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## FROM THE PAST



*Oneida-Kenwood Women's Suffrage Group, 1917. Lotta Kinsley, in the front row, fifth from left, holds the captioned ball. Christine Allen is just above and to the right of her. Jessie Kinsley sits in the second row, third from right (see the article "Kenwood Suffragettes").*



*Dard Wayland-Smith, Pierrepont Noyes, Mart Kinsley, and Ab Kinsley, about 1912 (see the article, "Quo Vadimus").*



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