

# **“The Save the Lyon, Commission, Inc.” Newsletter**

Vol. VIII

Spring Issue, 2013



**Tenth Year Anniversary!**



### **From the President's Desk**

On December 4, 2003, at the former Knights of Columbus Hall on West Washington Street, Bath, New York, a barely-formed STLC, Inc. held its first official meeting. (Earlier, in the autumn of 2003, the following Bath residents met informally at the Club Valentine in Bath to discuss what could be done to preserve the Dana L. Lyon historic school complex. The 4.7 acre site included two historic conjoined buildings. In attendance were Kimberly Makitra, Fawn Masti, Margaret Hogan, Michael Skelly, Lorrie Skelly, and Rosalie Niemczyk. A seventh person, Shirley Paine, Editor of the Steuben Courier-Advocate was out of town.)

By the time of the K of C meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> of that same year, the initial group of Club Valentine “grass-roots” citizens had formulated that famous evening’s program. The core group and charter members decided to serve some sumptuous victuals and beverages for a cold winter’s night; plus, the program was stupendous.

Heading up the pool of experts on the dais were Clinton Brown, the Architect of Renown, and past master of all things marked preservation; Virginia Bartos from the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation; and Tania Werbizky of the N.Y.S. Preservation League. Approximately 40 residents, including Haverling High alumni, were also present.

Out of these humble beginnings, with no organizational schematic yet in place and nary a penny to call its own, emerged the original officers: Rosalie Niemczyk, Chairperson; Shirley Paine, Co-chair; Margaret Hogan, Secretary; Marjorie Walike, Treasurer. (Shirley Paine moved and Walt

Longwell assumed Vice Presidency. Niemczyk’s title changed to President.)

The first matter to be settled was that of securing an attorney respected in the arena of preservation of historic buildings and preventing their demolition. Clinton Brown recommended Alan J. Knauf, Esq. of Rochester, New York. We quickly secured his services, and he was apparently impressed with our grit and determination as our “treasury” then consisted of whatever we each present could “put in the hat”.

Subsequent meetings at the homes of the Hogans and the Skellys produced a Mission Statement, an Application for Incorporation, as well as an immediate Plan of Attack to ward off the wrecker’s ball! Margaret Hogan undertook the arduous incorporation process and application for NON-PROFIT STATUS, with the help of Bath resident Bob Dugo and another accountant, Richard Sherman.

In short succession, the following folks came on board with a great wave of enthusiasm: George Walike, Walt Longwell, Patricia Eaton, Steve Paine, Frank Niemczyk, Dorothy Hobbs, Jerry Hobbs, Curt Hopkins, Bill Townsend, Alan and Teresa Turner, John and Martha Bryson, Ferolyn and Ray Swain, Patty Rice-Gurecki, Barb Vanderhoef.

Being an avid reader for her entire life, Rosalie Niemczyk thought there had to be a record somewhere about the early donations of land for the school buildings on that historic site at Liberty and East Washington Streets. Getting the help of best buddies Shirley Paine and Margaret Hogan, they invaded the attic of the old Magee House now under the auspices of the Steuben County Historical Society. Covered with cobwebs, they discovered an interesting treasure trove of old references.

Rosalie also journeyed to the uppermost floor of the Municipal Building on Liberty Street with local historian Jim Hope and, together these two uncovered vital pieces of information in ancient copies of the Courier-Advocate.

Shirley Paine, ever the news hawk, went online and discovered living heirs of Ira Davenport, Jr.-heirs that had totally been forgotten or overlooked by the Bath Central School District when it sold the historic school complex to developers LaVerne Billings, Peter Krog, and James Prise, then doing business as LLC Liberty-E. Washington.

You see, the fantastic piece of information that Paine and Hogan gave to Niemczyk, who translated the Victorian penmanship and “legalese” of the day, was...*Ira Davenport, Jr.’s Last Will and Testament!* And there, for all mankind to see, in perpetuity, was a reverter clause that clearly stated if the donations of land and the school buildings upon them should ever cease to be a school, then the property should revert to heirs of the original donors! That was the blockbuster that the fledgling group in STLC had been seeking! Now Alan Knauf, Esq. had something with which to work.

Shirley Paine, to her credit and current technology, located one Annie Meneakis, daughter of Katherine Williamson, a Davenport-Waterman heir, from the State of Oregon. “Kay” Williamson quickly contacted her first cousins Mary Lunt, Pamela Gale, Anne Bingham, and Sallie Arens. These Davenport-Waterman heirs took this matter very seriously and sued for their rights via their many-times-over-great uncle’s will.

The “rest is history,” as they say. After nearly eight years in the courts, all has been settled and The Save-the-Lyon Commission, Inc. is the official owner of said premises.

In a word, “AMEN”!



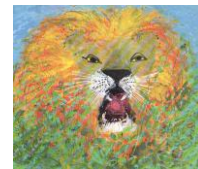
We “old-timers” on STLC are delighted to welcome some much-needed “new blood” and “enthusiasm” to our ranks. Joining the Board of Directors and Working Officers now are Tony Moretti, Gwen Quigley, Betty Gerych, and Donna Gerych.

The Board of Directors for 2013 are: William S. Townsend, Dorothy Hobbs, George Walike, Patricia Rice-Gurecki, John Bryson, Curt Hopkins, Teresa Turner and Gwen Quigley.

Your working officials are: President-Rosalie Niemczyk; Vice President-Tony Moretti; Recording Secretary-Donna Gerych; Corresponding Secretary-Betty Gerych; Treasurer-Walt Longwell.



Very special thanks for past labors extended by Dorothy and Jerry Hobbs (Building and Grounds-Thank you, Jerry!); John Bryson and his “crew” (Thank you, John! And thank you to Mike Campbell and Jimmy Manry); Ferolyn and Ray Swain; Curt Hopkins; Walt Longwell; Bill Townsend; Patty Rice-Gurecki; Marge and George Walike; Kim Makitra; Kevin Proaper; The Skellys; Dr. Greg Schultz; Fawn Masti; Ken Corey; Alan Turner; Teresa Turner; Martha Bigalow, Joe Baroody, Jeff Baroody, Ed and Eddie Bonicave, and a host of others who will be remembered in future articles. God Bless You All!



### Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Does anyone know where the Waterman Art Center banner is stored? Curt Hopkins will check with the Steuben County Fair Association. It was last used at the Home Show last fall. Members...?

## In Memoriam

The Save-the-Lyon Commission, Inc. deeply regrets the totally unexpected passing of its most treasured member, Margaret Ann Hogan, on August 4, 2012.

Born on Long Island, Margaret and her parents and siblings moved to Cohocton, New York when she was about nine years old. Margaret's maiden name was Burke, and the Burkes became a large and respected family in this part of Steuben County.

Margaret was a nurse practitioner with a college background, and worked for many years at the Bath V.A.

She is survived by her husband of many years, Paul Hogan, and her children Patty, Kathy and Michael, as well as several grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

## Various Miscellanies

D.Hobbs reports that last year's parking fees on Dana Lyon property for the Steuben County Fair reaped benefits of \$1335.27 for STLC, and the yard sale then garnered revenue of \$2325.28 (this included the 50/50 raffle and a September donation earmarked for the yard sale.)

Judy Everitt of Bath won \$93.50 on the 50/50 drawing. Special thanks to Matty Baroodly for physical assistance at the yard sale, as well as all the others who helped.

A nosegay of posies to teenager Madeleine Gurecki for her photographs of the Primary Annex interior. These photos will be featured in future newsletters.



Photographed from L.to R.:  
G. Walike, M. Walike, M. Hogan ("St. Margaret"- who guided us through so many land mines!), D. Hobbs, B. Townsend and W. Longwell

This photograph was probably taken by Jerry Hobbs. It was one of the first times that members of our group got inside the 1923 addition. As you can see, the perfectly usable heavy stage curtain was reduced by a scissored-out square, cut for a homeless vandal's blanket. Guess it kept him warm that winter!

## A Word from our Membership Chairperson:

Thank you to the alumni of Haverling High, Haverling Central, the Old Dana L. Lyon School for your interest and financial support in saving the beautiful building that is our Alma Mater.

Could you spread the word contained in this Newsletter to your former classmates whom we may have been unable to reach? Perhaps a challenge to match your donation; a class pledge to purchase materials for renovations; a memorial for a former classmate who is no longer with us; roof repairs; new heating, etc., etc. I would entertain a challenge to the Class of 1951 (my graduating year) as the LAST Graduating Class of Haverling HIGH School!

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Dickie Hobbs  
Membership Chairperson



## Exciting News!

On April 27 and 28, 2013, a small group of dedicated artists created, and held, an “Arts in Bloom” event that was comprised of a Steuben County Arts Trail!

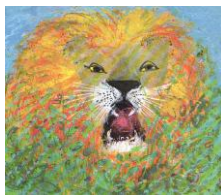
Members of this group designed and published a program and visual guided map that led participants and spectators from Arkport, Hornell, Hartsville, Cohocton, Avoca, Bath, Thurston, Addison, Erwin, Corning, Urbana, Hammondsport, Wayne and to all areas in between these outlined stops.

Essentially, visitors, tourists, art patrons, etc. traveled from one studio to another to view these artists in their home environments. At least 30 professionals (including a writer) were included and the art was extremely varied and a joy to behold:

- Paintings (including oil, watercolor, gouache, pastel, graphite, pen and ink)
- Sculpture (wood, bronze, glass, silver and copper)
- Furniture (using branches, limbs, sheet metal)
- Pottery (too vast to even begin to mention here)
- Writer Susan Williams Beckhorn
- A “Tree of Life standing 50 feet high and a weight of 40 tons (purchased by the city of Elk Grove, California)
- And jewelry, stained glass, form furniture

There was something for everyone! Bellissimo!

(P.S. Many thanks to Debbie Meritsky and Marc Rotman for chairing the “Arts in Bloom” planning committee for their group, and also to Tony Moretti, vice president of STLC for publicizing it!)



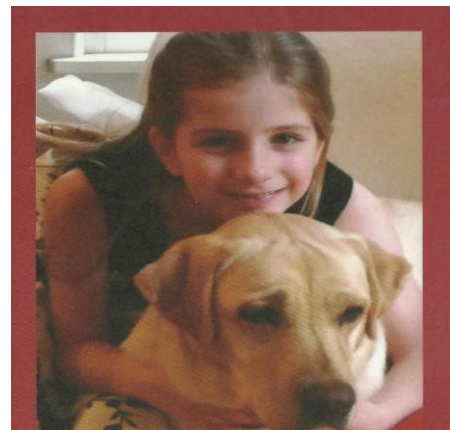
## Puppet Playhouse, Anyone?

This summer of 2013, the Waterman Center for the Arts will be hosting a series of art workshops for local area youths, made possible by a \$3,750 New York State grant from the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes. This funding will allow all artists involved to be paid for their work. There will be no charge for students who want to participate

Workshops in dance, music, sculpture, painting, textiles and creative writing will be combined in the creation of a large-scale puppet production to be performed at the culmination of the project.

We will be using the Waterman Center, including the Primary Annex lawn and building, as our base for the production.

Enrollment is open to the first 25 children, ages five through 16, who show a serious interest and commitment to this opportunity. PLEASE CONTACT TONY MORETTI or GWEN QUIGLEY for more information at (607) 569-3724, or on FACEBOOK at Waterman Center for the Arts.



Sophia Meneakis (Kay Williamson’s grand-daughter, and Annie and Emmanuel Meneakis’ daughter) and her dog Ceilidh. (How does one pronounce this Celtic name. Anyone?)

## Update on Condition of Two Historic School Buildings and “What Lies Ahead”

First of all, meet Clinton Brown and his company, “Clinton Brown Company Architecture” (CBCA) of Buffalo, New York. The fabulous work of the Clinton Brown Company Architecture firm may be seen in Buffalo, Newburgh, Ithaca, Niagara Falls, Palmyra and Clarence in New York State; and, now this company has opened an office in Corning! We are delighted!



CBCA, 653 Main Street, Suite 104, Buffalo, NY 14203

We also wish to introduce his wife, Alma O’Connell Brown who is, in her own professional right, a grand mistress of securing preservation grants.

Early members of STLC, Inc. will recall that Clinton sent us to the Law Offices of Alan J. Knauf, Esq. in Rochester and Alan represented the Waterman women and us, successfully, in court. STLC will be working closely with CBCA concerning OUR Historic Resources Survey, and to spear us on with innovative methods of fund-raising. (You heard it, colleagues...FUND-RAISING. See last two pages of Newsletter.)

On Friday, April 19, 2013, the Browns, Walt Longwell, Patty Rice-Gurecki, and John Bryson toured both the Primary Annex and the 1923 Addition, as well as the grounds, tennis courts, and parking lot of the DLL Historic School Complex.

Clinton Brown reports that the 1899 building is in very good condition. The 1923 Addition needs a thorough cleaning out and in the future, bids will be entertained for a professional cleaning firm to come in and perform those duties.

Roof repairs have been completed by Walt Longwell and sons.

Additionally, the Browns gave us much appreciated advice on cementing our grant from the Environmental Protection Fund, and also for additional money-making social events.

After a roughly three hour study of all of the above, STLC Directors and officers hosted the Browns to lunch in the historic dining room of proprietor John Bryson’s Old National Hotel, itself on the site of a very early schoolhouse in Bath on East Steuben Street. And so, the dream goes on....

## To All Haverling Alumni and Historical Preservationists:

We are now on an important threshold more important than any milestone to date. Fate has determined that the “Lion” was not to be razed...to be reduced to cinder and ashes when, once, none other than the great architect, Cass Gilbert, (New York City; designed the Chrysler Building and the Supreme Court of the United States of America in Washington, D. C.) had originally laid out the plans for the 1923 Addition. (The Primary Annex was the result of a circa 1899-1900 Elmira architect firm, and we will chat about that company’s efforts in our next newsletter.) Gilbert was enmeshed in another project when the 1923 Addition was on the drawing board and so he sent his top assistant, a fresh bright architect out of the Pocatello Hills of Idaho, one Palmer Rogers, who completed Gilbert’s 1923 effort in Bath.

Palmer Rogers died at age 40 sadly. What might his genius have unleashed had he lived longer...?

Now these buildings need help. They need our help and your help. This is our Village-our Town. These are our cornerstones and historically registered anchor buildings, both by the U.S. gov’t, and N.Y. State

## We Welcome your Support

The Save-the-Lyon Commission, Inc. urges our old Bath families, relatives, sympathizers to our project of saving the school, and preservationists near and far, to consider leaving a small bequest in their estates to the Commission.

Future considerations for memorials are going to include pavement brick blocks; bronze plaques on memorial rocks in our “Education Garden”, including memorial stone benches; and classroom/ wing dedications. All of these matters will be addressed at future monthly meetings.

Now that we have gotten every roadblock out of the way over the past decade, it is essential that we raise the necessary funds to make these strong, fine architectural buildings once again be productive in all ways.

## Flag-Raising



Still standing...and mighty tall and proud at that!  
Safe and sound.



L-R: J. Bryson, M. Smith, J. Bogart, W. Longwell, F. Swain, R. Swain, D. Hobbs, L. Longwell, J. Hobbs, B. Townsend, G. Walike, C. Hopkins, R. Niemzyk, M. Walike

Group photo of STLC Officers, Directors, Members, Etc. on the front steps of the 1923 addition when new flag was donated by the Bogart Family in memory of a fallen veteran relation.

## What Has Been Accomplished in the Past Decade: (2003 - 2013)

- ✚ **Waterman heirs reclaim their ancestor’s “reverter” donation**
- ✚ **Clean-up** of inside of Primary Annex Building (W. Longwell, J. Hobbs, G. Walike, B. Townsend, D. Hobbs, M. Hogan, M. Walike, P. Eaton, and others)
- ✚ **SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) visit and endorsement**
- ✚ **“Seven-to-Save”-State Preservation League** selects seven edifices yearly in the State, to help stave off the wrecker’s crane and demolition. Tania Werbizky from NYSPL came to Bath to make the presentation of “Seven-to-Save” and it merited the media being present as well as a special press release!
- ✚ **NYS grant-funded Conditions/Re-use Report**
- ✚ **NYS Parks EPF Grant awarded-\$75k**
- ✚ **OWNERSHIP OF ENTIRE CAMPUS**
- ✚ Basic maintenance of buildings
- ✚ Cookbook sale honoring Neva Hopkins
- ✚ Dessert theatres, yard sales, raffles, strawberry social



The "Lyon" is Roaring Mad

Roaring Mad

They took away his glad  
When he was sold  
He's past being sad  
And is not getting bold.

The School District left him cold  
Hoping he'd look bad  
Thinking he'd grow old with mold  
Instead he showed he's no fad.

The "Lyon" is still on the ground  
He suffered a bum deal all around!  
But friends and grads have been found  
And Save-The Lyon has rallied 'round

The "LYON" has returned!



The "Lyon" is Soaring Glad

Soaring Glad

The Lion has come back to rest,  
Upon his stone which he knows best.

All the battles have been won;  
He's weary and tired but his job is done.

Now his home is off to new glory  
And that should be the end of the story.

But there's a catch about his "stash"  
He's on the watch for much more CASH!

Will you help the Lion get back his pride?

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**Upcoming Events 2013.....**

**July** (date TBA).....→

**August**  
9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.....→

13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.....→

**September**  
6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.....→

**October**  
19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.....→

**December**.....→

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**Save-the-Lyon Commission and  
The Waterman Center for the Arts**

Puppet Show

Trash and Treasure Sale

Steuben County Fair Parking

Community Arts Festival

Dessert Theatre at the National Hotel

Raffle and Holiday Newsletter



# Help Save the Lyon!

Contributions in any form are very much appreciated:

- Become a member
  - Volunteer at events and activities
  - Spread the word about this project
- Make a donation in memory of, or in honor of a loved one
  - Encourage your class to donate and be recognized

(Your contribution is tax deductible)

## Annual Dues:

Individual.....\$10.00  
Family.....\$15.00  
Business.....\$25.00

## Donation Suggestions:

Haverling Donor.....\$ 50.00  
Davenport Donor.....\$ 75.00  
Waterman Donor.....\$100.00  
Plaque for "Class Donation" .....TBD

.....  
Please tear off and send with your contribution to: **SAVE-THE-LYON COMMISSION, INC.**  
PO BOX 83, BATH, NY 14810

## Donation:

\_\_\_\_\_ Haverling Donor (\$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_ Davenport Donor (\$75)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Waterman Donor (\$100)

\_\_\_\_\_ Class Plaque (Amount)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues – Individual (\$10)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues - Family

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues – Business

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Amount)

Year graduated? \_\_\_\_\_