

# WALTER ELWOOD MUSEUM

OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY



FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

## A Letter from the Executive Director



It's been a great year at the Walter Elwood Museum and there have been so many exciting changes since the Museum's last newsletter! Our move into Guy Park Manor along the majestic banks of the Mohawk

River at Lock 11 is complete and all of our displays are open to the public.

We owe our gratitude to NYS Department of Parks and Recreation for entrusting us with the use of this historic building. And we are thankful to have the continued support of the New York State Canal Corporation in helping us maintain our grounds. Please take some time to come and see our beautiful exhibit rooms which include the Children's Toy Room, the Military Room, the research library, the Victorian Parlor, the Amsterdam Industrial Room, the award-winning Walter Elwood DISCOVERY room, and the always popular Natural History "Animal" room. Native American Indian artifacts are showcased in our second floor foyer featuring the Max Reid Collection, and the art-

work of Amsterdam artists is displayed in our first floor foyer showcasing Mary Van Der Veer, John Harvey and many more. Our charming gift shop is filled with collectibles and offers many books by local authors including Robert Going, Stephen Haven, Louis Hildebrandt, Robert von Hasseln and Gerald R. Snyder.

Clearly the arts, culture and museums have been playing a positive role in bringing New York out of this economic quagmire as proven by the significant increase in tourism at New York State museums by 62.5% over the past two years despite statewide funding cuts. Come take a tour and see what the Walter Elwood Museum has to offer. Become a new member, renew your current membership, make a donation or sponsor an event. We rely on your support to keep our doors open year round. YOUR donations will provide educational programming to children and adults and bring our community together to preserve the collections which we are so fortunate to have. As we kick off our 2011 membership drive, I invite you to join us in moving the Walter Elwood Museum into the future. Thank you for your continued support!

— Ann M. Peconie, Executive Director

## A Note from the Board President

It is an exhilarating time to be a part of the Museum, and as we kick off our 2011 Membership Drive, I invite you all to join me and become a part of preserving our local history. The move to our new site at Guy Park Manor is complete and all of our exhibit rooms are open for public viewing. The building looks great and the number of artifacts on display has significantly increased. We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Govind Rao for his recent contributions to the Museum to fund our Summer Camp programming for children, as well as the addition of new signage and classroom

makeover. I would like to thank our members for supporting us through our relocation and renewing their memberships during these difficult economic times. Your support is even more vital now that we are completely independent from the Amsterdam School District and no longer receive funding from the City of Amsterdam. Look for new and exciting fundraising events in the coming months like our Silpada jewelry sale at Raindancer Restaurant in November. Please visit the museum and see all of the hard work our staff and volunteers have done to make Guy Park Manor our home.  
— Susan Wollman, President

## Around Town...

Visit the Museum's off-site display located in the kiosk outside the Cranesville Block offices on the lower level of the Riverfront Center. The display is changed seasonally and showcases many of the Museum's unique artifacts.

The Museum has created an "Amsterdam Industries – Past & Present" exhibit in the display case located outside the City Clerk's office in City Hall.

## Walter Elwood Museum 2011 Membership Drive



**We Need YOUR Help!**  
See the enclosed flier for details

## Board of Directors

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Ann Peconie, Executive Director

# Summer Fest 2010

Photos by Mark Perfetti

This year, the Museum held the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social, which in 2010, became known as Summer Fest. On a hot summer July evening, over 1,200 people filled the lawn surrounding Guy Park Manor. Guests were treated to an evening of family fun and entertainment, including delicious food and baked treats, carnival games, bounce rides, music and wares from a wide variety of vendors. Over 60 classic cars and hot rods were on display in the car show, and 10 lucky car owners took home trophies for their prized vehicles. International award-winning photographer, **Chaman S. Rathore**, was the evening's special guest, with several of his photos on display throughout the Museum. Many thanks to Stewarts Shops, DJ Mike Sylvia, Miller Printing, Mohawk Dairy, Sievert's Sports, Adirondack Septic, Amsterdam Police, GAVAC, Joan Krohn, Frank Yarasezski, Harry Piurek, Mark Perfetti and all of our bakers and volunteers.



Car enthusiasts from the region participated in the Museum's annual car show at Summer Fest.



Art Iannuzzi of Amsterdam views one of the photos taken by Chaman S. Rathore.



Debbie Auspelmyer and her children Brooke and Nicholas view artifacts on display in the newly opened Museum.



Frank Yarasezski (right) congratulates Bill Shull for taking home the trophy for his 1949 Ford Club coupe.

## Special Thanks to Our Summer Fest Sponsors

**St. Mary's Hospital**  
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## 2010 Museum Camps for Kids

We have had a very busy year in the Dr. Rao Educational wing with children's camp days. Many thanks to **Dr. Govind Rao, Children's Aid Association, Fidelis Care** and **National Grid** for underwriting the cost of our kids' camps and making it possible for us to provide educational programming to over 200 area children this year.

2010 marked our first Martin Luther King Camp Day in January at which we studied the cultural masks in the Museum's collection from Alaska, Africa and South America. Each child made their own mask to take home and enjoy. In February, we celebrated President's Day by viewing all the vintage puzzles in the collection and kids made a variety of their own puzzles.

During April, we enjoyed a three-day camp with "Springtime at the Manor", studying seasonal routines such as churning butter,

cleaning flax and wool and more. The kids made butter and enjoyed the fruits of their labor during snack time. The week ended with Alaskan Totem Pole Art, and we studied the many small size examples of totem pole art in our Alaskan Collection. Each child created their own personalized totem pole story art.

The 2010 Summer Camp featured five weeks of exciting themes including Native American Indians, Nature Lovers, Healthy Kids, Art, Science with George Steele and our Organic Garden and Craft Club.

Some fantastic camp days are planned for this fall and winter including Columbus Day, Veteran's Day and more. Call us for a flier or visit our website at [www.walterelwoodmuseum.org](http://www.walterelwoodmuseum.org) to view a registration form.



Bella Porter, Ben Porter and Evan Iannuzzi create animal print t-shirts.

## Upcoming Events

November 4	<b>Silpada Jewelry Event</b> Raindancer Restaurant 6:30-8:30 pm
November 11	<b>Veterans Day Kids' Camp with Sally Romano</b> A Celebration of Thanksgiving — Featuring Storytime and Crafts
December 4	<b>Holiday Open House at the Manor</b> Refreshments • Entertainment • Family Fun 10:00 am til Noon
January 17	<b>Martin Luther King Kids' Camp</b> Featuring Underground Railroad Lesson and Activities

*All events held at the Walter Elwood Museum unless otherwise noted.*

**Group or senior tours always welcome.**

*For more information on any Museum event, call 518.843.5151*

## Recent Acquisitions

- **Art Kinowski** of Amsterdam donated a large, framed multi-portrait of the Amsterdam Common Council from 1913 which includes a photograph of Mayor Dealy and Council Page, Hugh Donlon. This can be found on display on the second floor at the top of the stairs.
- **Aloysius Kozlowski Jr.** of the Town of Amsterdam donated several items from his days as an Amsterdam Police Officer in the 1950's, including a night stick, holster and a Black Jack. These items are now on display in the Amsterdam Industrial Room.
- **Laura Harrison** of Amsterdam donated a unique 1950's console coffee table flip up television from RCA Victor which is currently on display in our Walter Elwood Interactive Room.
- **The family of George Vosburgh** of Broadalbin, NY, a retired Amsterdam Schools Music Teacher, donated his 1927 Betsy Ross Spinet piano, which proudly sits in our main foyer.
- **Sidney LaFavour** of Camden, ME donated a small book belonging to her grandmother, Helen Kline LaFavour which was used to record the members and minutes of The Young Ladies Monday Afternoon Whist Club from 1900 to 1914 in Amsterdam, NY.
- **Audrey Flint and Alice Decker** donated several uniforms and items belonging to the Amsterdam City Hospital Nurses Alumni Association. Many of the items dated back to 1888 when the hospital and nursing school were founded.
- **Lee Lovenheim** of Atlanta, GA and formerly of Amsterdam donated many items and photographs of and belonging to his father Jerome S. Lovenheim, an Amsterdam Attorney and past president of the Montgomery County Bar Association. Many of these framed photographs are on display in our Children's Toy Room on the second floor.
- Thank you for the AHS yearbooks donated by many individuals, including **Donald Levy, Jean Wharton** and **Beverly Knapp**, to help complete our collection.



## An Evening at the Manor

On a beautiful spring evening in May, over 200 guests attended the sold-out Grand Re-opening Gala to celebrate the Museum's official opening in its new home. Guy Park Manor welcomed visitors to the newly-completed exhibits. Guests were treated to performances from the Musicians of Ma'alwyck and harpist Karlinda Kaldicott. Union Hall Inn provided

the delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Special guests **Rob Von Hasseln** and **Gerald R. Snyder** were on hand to sign copies of their recently-released book, *Amsterdam-A Postcard History*. Special thanks to Black Bear Wine & Spirits, Miller Printing, White Cottage Gardens and Kerri Stabile.

Photos by Mark Perfetti



Grace Gilbert and Lou Hildebrandt enjoy the festivities.



Peter Capobianco and his wife, Diana, view one of the Museum's new exhibits.



Board Members Dan Quatrini, Susan Wollman, and John Mattas serve up the evening's refreshments.

### Gala Sponsors

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