

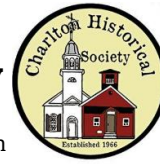


Charlton Historical Society

2009 Maple Ave. Charlton, NY 12019

Phone: 518-399-4126 Email: Charltonhist@gmail.com

<https://www.charltonnyhs.org>



Fall 2025 Newsletter- Volume 34 #4

Prepared by Co-President- Jill Hofmann

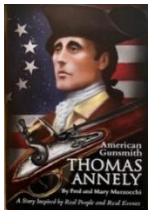


RECENT DONATIONS

- Genealogy Reference Books donated by Bonny Cook.



- The Charlton Quilt has arrived to the archives at the Museum from the Charlton Community Center, which is under construction. You will be able to view it, along with it's history, spring of 2026.



- Signed "American Gunsmith Thomas Annely" Book donated by Ray Machado.



MUSEUM MAINTENANCE



TJ and Ken have been busy maintaining our 2 historic buildings and the cost has gotten to be quite a bit for the museum. We are accepting donations to maintain the structural integrity of this old historic building we all love.

Portable Podium-Ken is going to be making a portable Podium that we can use at some of our functions.



DONATIONS

- We are always accepting donations in many forms- archives, time, money, ideas and help.



PAST EVENTS

October Program 10/1st @7pm- Revolutionary War depicted by Rick Reynolds

- We had a great time discovering our local heroes and one villain as we watch the documentary film **"America 250: The Ballston Connection"** This film was directed by Ballston Town Historian Rick Reynolds and filmed and edited by West Charlton resident Dave Waite. After the video, we had a wonderful question and answer session with Rick and then a "Fun Facts" session with Jill. She shared some fun facts about Revolutionary War heroes of Charlton. We had 25 people in attendance and 2 remotely viewed by Zoom. See pictures below of the program event.



- The Historical Society Board also presented nominations for the 2025-2026 board at the beginning of this program. Nominations are as follows: Alice Crotty, Jill Hofmann, Pat Parker, Nancy Bellamy, Susan York, Bob Fenton, Ken Crotty, Chuck Latham, TJ Lyons, Carrie Shea, Jason Nemec, and Bill Wehrle. The voting is scheduled at the November board meeting.





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UPCOMING 2025 CHS PROGRAMS

November 4th @ 5-8pm-BHBL Rotary Pie Festival



- Come see our CHS table at the Pie Festival on Election Day at O'Rourke Middle School

November 5th @7pm- Charlton Resident Business Owners Social

- Calling all Business owners who live in Charlton to our November Program. Have fun socializing with other business owners and learning about the history of businesses in Charlton. Bring your business card if you have one.

December 1st -Charlton Historical Society's Annual Holiday Party at the Charlton Tavern.

- Save the date on your calendars to join us for a night of good food, the silent auction raffle, singing carols, and a new game. Last year we had a fun picture game and this year we would like to do a game called "Guess Who's Fun Fact". Just send a few fun facts about yourself to jillbsvc@gmail.com or text (518) 378-6865 so we can play this fun guessing game at the party.

January 4th 2026 @ 2pm- The Henry Knox Cannon Trail Monuments Program with David Peck.

- Come check out David Peck's visit to all 60 Henry Knox Cannon Trail monuments from Ticonderoga to Boston in a PowerPoint program. Snow date for this program will be 1/11/2026.



PAST EVENTS CONTINUED...

DEDICATION 9/5/2025:

Jill presented Shelley Smith with her personalized Smith family tree, info on the Smiths Orchard Bake Shop, and connection to Charlton.

What a blessing to have this family be part of Charlton for so many generations! Shelley will gather some photos to add to it, so stay tuned to see it on the wall in the shop.

Jill also presented the Dairy Farm button as well. They are truly a cherished part of Charlton, NY.



DONATION 10/3/2025:

The Charlton Historical Society had an excess amount of unused Charlton Heritage 5K race t-shirts from many years.

Our Board had a wonderful idea to donate them to a local veteran support organization. The picture to the right is "Bri" from VCHC (Veterans & Community Housing Coalition) accepting our multiple boxes of t-shirts.



Jill was happy to drop these off, get a tour and hear of the many ways VCHC are helping the Veterans in our community since 1983.

They are accepting donations in the form of:

nonperishable food items, gift cards, furniture and household goods, new blankets, new sheets, new pillows, personal care items, cleaning supplies, and cash donations. Keep up the great work VCHC!





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Remembering Bruce Gardner (1943-2025)

Bruce S. Gardner, age 82, passed away peacefully on August 19, 2025, at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, NY with his family by his side. Bruce was born on August 8, 1943, in Schenectady, NY and was the son of the late Stevens and Margaret (Bachelor) Gardner.

For many years, Bruce enjoyed a fulfilling career at GE, retiring after 35 years as a manufacturing engineer. Outside of work, he poured his creativity into woodworking, building beautiful furniture and boats. A lifelong racing enthusiast, he frequented the Albany Saratoga Speedway, later capturing the action as a track photographer. He was a long-time faithful member of Burnt Hills United Methodist Church. He especially loved hydroplane racing, piloting boats and engaging in a competitive sport. When not chasing speed, Bruce found joy on his gentleman's farm where he tended the land from his tractor all the while spending time with his beloved family and his pup, Champ. Bruce was also deeply involved in his community as a Harmony Corners Volunteer Fireman, a former Burnt Hills Rotarian, and an active participant in the Junior Achievement Program for many years. From 2006 to 2013, he served as a Town of Charlton Councilman and contributed to the planning and assessment boards. About ten years ago, Bruce Garner built, painted and donated the beautiful replacement museum door. He will be missed!

We Say Goodbye... to the store on the corner of Rte 147 and Eastern Ave. Many of us grew up seeing this historic store and some were lucky enough to have been in it when it was in operation. Over the last couple weeks, I have heard stories about the cent candy, the soda pop, men going to stay warm, and seeing the antiques. We all agree we will miss it, but will continue to keep its memories alive.



CHARLTON LONGEVITY!

These 2 wonderful ladies celebrated their birthdays in style and hitting age milestones we all hope to meet one day.

What an accomplishment- Congratulations!



ON THE LEFT -Mary Opalka (Oldest Charlton Resident) celebrates her **107th** birthday at CP's in Hagaman. She even wore the t-shirt we designed for her.

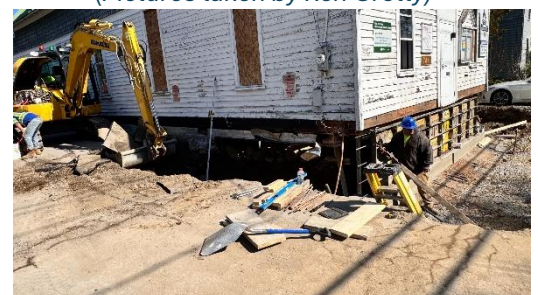
ON THE RIGHT-Irene Jankowski celebrating her **100th** birthday. She has lived her entire life at her home on Swagertown Rd. and worked for GE for over 35 years.

THE CHARLTON COMMUNITY CENTER GETS A FOUNDATION



They are working hard to save this important historical building of Charlton. Great Job!

(Pictures taken by Ken Crotty)



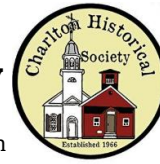


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OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS

- **Digital Preservation**-Continuing the process of securing our documents and artifacts by digital storage.
- **Button Dedications**- We are creating certificates and individually framed CHS Founders Day buttons to present to local groups and individuals.
- **Update the Charlton Letters**- About 40 years ago, the CHS created a document that had pictures and history of the historic buildings in Charlton. We are busy retaking those pictures to update the document.
- **Sweet Recipe Booklet**
- **Scheduling our 2026 Programs**

VISIT FROM A CELEBRITY

Meet Jen *Consalus* Keegan. She is a 10th generation relative from the Charlton famous John Gonzalez. Yes, the one who was scalped by the St. Regis Indians during the Revolutionary War.

She recently emailed and set up a visit to our Charlton Historical Society schoolhouse to view her relative's archives binder. We were able to point her in the right direction to hit all the historical sites on her trip including the sign she took a picture in front of below and her families grave sites in the Scotch Church Cemetery.



THE CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES TEAM



Alice Crotty	Co-President	518-399-4153
Jill Hofmann	Co-President, Digital Preservation Director, Cor. Secretary, Interim Curator	518-378-6865
Pat Parker	Vice President, 5K Race Sponsors	518-882-9099
Nancy Bellamy	Secretary	518-399-8508
Susan York	Treasurer	518-399-3797
Bob Fenton	Investment Funds	518-882-6009
Ken Crotty	Maintenance, Website	518-764-5210
Don Davis	CHS Historian	518-557-8679
Chuck Latham	Genealogy, History Buff	518-384-0130
TJ Lyons	5K Race Director, Maintenance	518-948-0626
Carrie Shea	Social Media, Farmers Market Director	518-791-3172
Jason Nemec	Digital Design, Craftsman	518-256-1816
Bill Wehrle	Assistant Curator	518-399-7695



1st Row: Susan York, Alice Crotty, Jill Hofmann, Carrie Shea

2nd Row: Nancy Bellamy

3rd Row: Ken Crotty, Chuck Latham, Bob Fenton, Jason Nemec

Absent from picture-Pat Parker, Don Davis, TJ Lyons, Bill Wehrle

(Hopefully, we can take another picture soon with everyone)

pg.4



VOLUNTEER

We are always accepting volunteers to help out!
We are currently looking for a curator.

Email us at charltonhist@gmail.com

Also, like us on Facebook and Instagram so you can stay informed of volunteer opportunities.



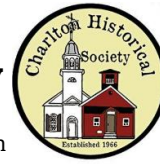


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THE HOLIDAY PARTY

It's that time of year again. Our annual Holiday Party is just around the corner, and it is time to sign up for an evening of fun, visiting with friends, and great food. The Charlton Tavern is one of our Silver Level 5K Race sponsors and Mike and Sue do a great job preparing our party.



Date: Monday, December 1st, 2025

Time: 6:00 Cocktails & light appetizers (Cocktail hour will include light appetizers and Cash bar.)
7:00 Dinner

Place: The Charlton Tavern

The menu selection is as follows:

- Filet of Sirloin- grilled filet of sirloin rubbed with garlic and rosemary, with a savory beef au jus and roasted portobello mushroom.
- Chicken Saltimbocca – chicken breast with sage, prosciutto, marsala wine sauce, and mozzarella cheese.
- Salmon Oscar- poached salmon filet topped with crab meat and asparagus, finished with hollandaise.
- Pasta Prima Vera – pasta tossed with fresh garden vegetables in a tomato basil cream

Note: Entrées will be served with potatoes or rice pilaf, chef choice of vegetable, garden salad, warm baguette, coffee, tea, decaf, and Chocolate Decadent Cake for dessert. *If you have a special dietary need, please let us know. *

New Game: Last year we enjoyed “Guess who’s childhood photo game”. This year, we will be playing “Guess Who’s Fun Fact”. Party guests are asked to provide President Jill Hofmann, ahead of time, with an interesting fun fact about themselves. You can get your fun fact to Jill by email: jillbsvc@gmail.com or call/text: 518 378-6865. Jill will have all the fun facts listed on the board, and you will write down your guess as to who it is about. To make it easier, name tags and a list of the attendees will be available. You will each have a form on which to write your guesses. A fun way to get to know each other.

Raffle: To continue our festive tradition enjoyed by so many CHS members, we will have our popular raffle. You will still have plenty of time to visit with friends as you enjoy your meals.

RSVP: To make your reservations and menu choice for the Holiday Party by November 21st, please contact Susan York, By phone: 518 399-3797 or E-mail: YorkMM474@aol.com We are glad to welcome any guests that you wish to bring. As always, the sooner the better so that the folks at the Tavern can plan the food order.

Price: This year’s price per person is \$50.00, which includes gratuity. As always, we charge only that which the Tavern needs to charge us for great meals and the exclusive use of the Tavern for the entire evening.

Payment: Of course, you can also simply send payment (with the form on the next page) for the Holiday Party and your **menu** choice with your 2026 CHS membership dues. Your party reservation is confirmed with your check made payable to: Charlton Historical Society.

Mail to:

Susan York
18 Cortland Drive
Charlton NY 12019-2644



Raffle Item Contribution:

If you have items to contribute for the raffle, please bring them unwrapped, on the night of the party and be sure to include the donor’s name.

Once again, we have asked for tables on which to display the raffle prizes. Raffle participants will be able to put their tickets into cups by the prizes for which they want to compete.



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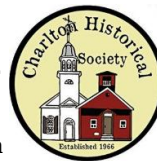


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Charlton Historical Society 2026 Membership Dues

We are using this form for the collection of 2026 dues, which are due by January 23, 2026 AND sign-up for the December 1st Holiday Party, should you choose to pay for both at the same time. Race Sponsors are not expected to pay dues, but we welcome you to the party.

Contact Information:

Name(s) _____

Street or PO Box _____

Town, State, ZIP _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Newsletter delivery preference: ☐ Email (except November)

☐ Mail printed

Membership:

Individual dues (\$15) _____

Family dues (\$20) _____

Business (\$25) _____

Donation \$ _____

Meals:

Party meals at \$50 each: _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Meal selections for Holiday Party: ☐ Beef x _____ ☐ Fish x _____ ☐ Chicken x _____ ☐ Veg x _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Checks Payable to: The Charlton Historical Society

Mail your check and this form to:

Susan York
18 Cortland Drive,
Charlton, NY 12019-2644