AARCH MATTERS

Your Preservation News for the Adirondack Region

Volume 15, Issue 4, April 2023

"Life is a cycle of ends and starts."

~ Mark Webber

As the weather turns fairer and the plants begin to wake up, the end of a cycle gives way to the beginning of another. We are surrounded by cycles, from the weather to traditions we return to each year. However, these cycles never repeat in quite the same manner.

The AARCH community, for one, is always changing, as we enthusiastically welcome new members and partners and regretfully say good-bye to those who have supported and worked with us for years. We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Meredith Johnston, Annette Merle-Smith, and Fulton Fryar. You can read more about their legacies below.

In the spirit of spring renewal, we are hard at work preparing for the return of our summer programming across the Adirondacks. Though we do this each year and often repeat tours, no two tours or tour seasons are quite the same. AARCH members will soon be receiving their 2023 Summer Newsletters in the mail - if you're not yet a member, you have until May 15 to **join** and be included in the **tour lottery**.

Lastly, this spring, don't forget about our **annual raffle** and our upcoming webinar, **Preserving Debar Pond Lodge**. The Washington County Historical Society also has some spring programming planned, which you can read more about below.

SANTANONI

*Join us May 18 for a birding excursion at Santanoni. Learn more and register **here**.*

In this Edition:

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- AARCH Preservation Awards
- On the Blog: Guatemala
- Remembering Meredith Johnston, Annette Merle-Smith, & Fulton Fryar
- Learn with Washington County Historical Society

Join us on June 2-3 f or a plaster workshop at the Graves Mansion in Au Sable Forks. Learn more and register here.

AARCH RAFFLE

Have you bought your raffle tickets yet? Don't miss out on this opportunity to win one of our unique prizes showcasing all the Adirondacks have to offer!

This year's prizes range from lodging at stunning historic properties and products from local businesses to creative and adventurous experiences throughout the region. Learn more about the prizes here and don't forget to buy your tickets!

Drawing: May 1, 2023

RAFFLE TICKETS

2023 AARCH PRESERVATION AWARDS

We are now accepting nominations for the 2023 AARCH Preservation Awards! Each year, AARCH recognizes exemplary preservation projects throughout the Adirondacks, honoring businesses, organizations, and individuals who make the Adirondacks a better place to live, work, and visit through their preservation and

stewardship work.

To submit a nomination, or for more information on the awards, **visit our website** or contact Preservation Services Director Christine Bush by **email** or at 518-834-9328. **Deadline June 16, 2023.** Self-nominations are encouraged!

NOMINATE AN AWARD

ON THE BLOG: GUATEMALA

Central Acropolis at Tikal National Park

If you weren't able to join us in Guatemala in March and are curious about what we saw and experienced there, head over to our **blog** to read more about the trip!

REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to three members of the AARCH family who have passed recently. Meredith Johnston, Annette Merle-Smith, and Fulton Fryar all furthered our mission through their contributions to AARCH and the region. They were each generous supporters and friends, whose lasting impact on their communities and preservation in the Adirondacks will be felt for years to come.

MEREDITH JOHNSTON

We were deeply saddened to learn of foundational AARCH member and Westport resident Meredith Johnston's passing on February 20.

Meredith and Bill Johnston were founding members of Adirondack Architectural Heritage and supported the organization for more than 30 years through their participation, enthusiasm, and generosity. Meredith was someone who cared deeply about the region and her home community of Westport and, through her volunteerism and work as an artist, helped to make the

Westport Heritage House such a great success.

We are so grateful for Meredith's contributions to AARCH and our region, particularly her community in Westport. Her family and loved ones are in our thoughts. You can read her obituary **here**.

Image: Bill & Meredith Johnston at an AARCH event.

ANNETTE MERLE-SMITH

We were also deeply saddened to learn of Keene Valley resident and longtime AARCH member Annette Merle-Smith's passing on April 3.

Annette was everything you could wish for in a member, supporter, fellow traveler, and friend. She saw that AARCH played a crucial role in the region in advocating for the people, history, and architecture of its communities and became a very early AARCH supporter. She was a generous member and provided funding for several of our book projects through her family foundation. Driven by her relentless curiosity, she was an avid tour participant over decades and went to Cuba with us in 2017, where she enjoyed the architecture, food, music, landscapes, and hospitality of this special island nation. She made her lovely, Bill Prescott-designed, Keene Valley home available to AARCH for several tours and special events. And she was quick to pick up the telephone and let us know something she had seen, read, heard or was musing on that she thought would interest us.

Annette's passion for preservation in the Adirondacks was evident in her generosity and enthusiasm for AARCH and her community. We are so grateful for everything she did for AARCH and our region. Her family and loved ones are in our thoughts.

Image: Annette Merle-Smith on an AARCH tour.

FULTON FRYAR

We were also deeply saddened to learn of Fulton Fryar's passing on April 8. When Jonathan Green first brought to plight of Fulton Fryar's "Closet" at the Seagle Music Colony to our attention, we immediately saw how important it was to preserve this little building, which represented a sad and uncomfortable story of 20th century racial attitudes in the region. But it was finding Fulton and bringing him here again that really made this effort meaningful. Through a series of interviews and a series of articles, an exhibit, and a film, Fulton got to tell *his* story to the world, a story that asked us to look more closely in the mirror at ourselves, our history, and our place.

Now, the Closet is on display at the Adirondack Experience, where you can visit it in person or take a **virtual tour of it online**. You can also watch **this Mountain Lake PBS special** to learn more about his experience at the Seagle Music Colony. We are grateful that we had the opportunity to connect with Fulton and help share his story. Thanks to his generosity and the efforts of our regional partners, the Closet and Fulton's legacy will be preserved for

generations to come. Fulton's family and loved ones are in our thoughts. You can read his obituary here.

Image: Barbara and Fulton Fryar in front of the Closet.

LEARN WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preservation Month is coming up soon! Join the Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) this May to celebrate historic preservation at the following **free** programs. Contact WCHS for more information.

Anatomy of Buildings: Architectural Vocabulary and Identifying 19th Century Styles

May 11 | 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Washington Co. Historical Society: 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY

Join preservationist and AARCH board member, Susan Arena, for an introduction to the architectural history of Washington County. This one hour program will offer a brief overview of common language used to describe buildings and an introduction to architectural styles found in Washington County. Familiarity with stylistic elements and influences helps provide historic context to the built environment and a better understanding of your community.

What You Should Know About Historic Designation and Funding Sources

May 18 | 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Historic Salem Courthouse: 58 East Broadway, Salem, NY

Join Janna Rudler from the Preservation League of New York State for a presentation about the League's technical service and grant programs, an overview of the State and National Registers of Historic Places, historic districts, and financial incentives for historic preservation available to historic property owners.

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NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Stewart's Shops

THANK YOU to the Stewart's Foundation's for their support through the Holiday Match Program.

Please visit our website to see how your business can support AARCH's work.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

A world of AARCH exists online. Join us there!

ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

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Preserving the architecture and communities of the Adirondack region through education, action, and advocacy.

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