

# *The Old House Guild of Sandusky*

Spring 2022 NEWS FOR MEMBERS 419-627-0640

## **NEW EVENT FOR THIS SUMMER!**

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Laying of the Cornerstone of the Evening Star Journal, now the Register Bldg.

## **Summer Tour of Historic Sites Planned**

Linda Howell

**Attention all Members . . .**

Consider attending a tour of Sandusky to view many of the treasured structures we have to enjoy. Plans are being finalized for a narrated bus tour on **Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**.

If you have lived all your life in this area, have resided here for many years, or are new to the area, there will be many details you will learn by participating in this event. Featured will be various architectural styles of homes and businesses along with details about local landmarks. This will be a nice way to spend about an hour on a Sunday summer afternoon learning more about your hometown. And leave the driving to someone else in the comfort of an air-conditioned bus.

Tours will take place at **1:00 P.M. and 2:15 P.M.** leaving from the **Sandusky Transit** stop in front of the Social Security building on Wayne St. The event will be open to **Old House Guild members only** and due to bus capacity we are accepting the **first 46 reservations**. The buses are handicap accessible.

Reservations can be made by calling or texting Linda Howell at 419-202-4531.



## Message from OHG President

Dr. Richard Keller

We are often asked about the purpose of the Old House Guild of Sandusky. Our mission originated from a group of visionary volunteers that organized a citywide inventory of historic homes and businesses in 1979:

**To promote historic preservation and the restoration of significant buildings, houses, sites, and objects in Sandusky, Ohio area. To encourage the rehabilitation and/or adaptive reuse of such properties. To accomplish these purposes by means of meetings, publications, surveys, and tours. To act as a non-profit organization and to apply for any grants that may be appropriate to further the cause of historic preservation.**

In this new edition of our newsletter, guild members will share past and present projects that illustrate our ongoing work to preserve the rich history found in our community. One of our recent success stories was the purchase and stabilization of the historic Johnson House. Other projects discussed in this issue include an initiative to update the citywide inventory of historic properties, the return of our annual Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes, plans for our annual membership meeting and dinner, and updates on the Cooke-Dorn Museum.

Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome and please keep us in mind if you have spare time to volunteer with any of our numerous opportunities.



***“The preservation of the Historic Johnson House represents our commitment to saving the unique and historic structures of the Sandusky community.”***



## Annual Membership Dinner Coming in October

**Events Committee**    Linda Howell & Mary Truka

Now that we are returning to a somewhat more normal life, the Board of the Old House Guild is thinking about ideas for future events. Planning is underway for an appreciation dinner/membership meeting with a featured speaker in October. Look for specifics in the summer newsletter.

Looking ahead to 2023, we are exploring the possibility of a return visit from the Building Doctor for an informative presentation followed by a few property visits to address preservation issues and techniques firsthand.

We ask that if you have any thoughts on events you would like to see the Guild host, please let one of your board members know.

## 2022 Old House Guild Scholarship

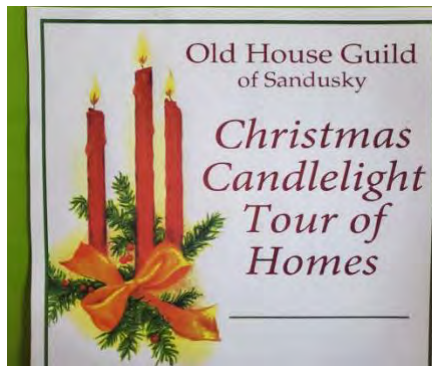
Linda Howell & Timothy Berkey

We are pleased to announce our most recent selection for the 2022 OHG Scholarship Award. This award was started in the early 90's by Ellie Dahm with the purpose of providing financial assistance to one student who is working toward a degree in any type of building, preservation, history, museum studies, historic interior design, or landscape architecture. For the past two years this award was not given due to issues related to COVID and virtual learning.

All area schools are provided with application/information packets. We were very happy and encouraged to receive seven applications this year for consideration.

Our 2022 selection is William Graves from Huron, Ohio. He is currently in the second semester of his freshman year at the American College of Building Arts in Charleston, SC. He is working toward a degree in carpentry and timber framing. He presented excellent records of his academic accomplishments at Vermillion High, Ehope Career Center, and BGSU Firelands. In addition, he submitted outstanding references from his professors.

Congratulations to William Graves!



## December 3/4

### Candlelight Tour Back on Schedule for 2022

Tour Manager     Ed Stout

Plans are in the early stages to have the Old House Guild's Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes return this December after an absence of two years due to the pandemic. In preparing to bring the Tour back, I have considered all the comments and suggestions that both Guild members and the public have expressed over the last nine years.

The first major decision was asking Guild members and Tour homeowners who had featured their homes on a Tour over the past twenty years, what days and hours they thought would be the best for presenting the Tour. Numerous suggestions were presented. Some wanted a portion of daylight hours to make it easier for those who had a hard time driving or walking at night. Others wanted no weekdays because of the limited time getting home from work. Some simply wanted nothing to change. After much debate and weighing all the suggestions, a questionnaire was presented to this group for their input. The overall favorite was to feature the Tour on Saturday and Sunday evening.

At present, I have one committed homeowner and two others considering participation. In addition, there are several other possibilities being considered. More information will be shared in future editions of the newsletter.

**Preservation Committee**

Will Schram &amp; Linda Smith

**The 1979 Inventory of Historic Sandusky Properties**

Do you know that your Sandusky home may have been part of the historic inventory conducted in 1979? Through the advisement of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the Old House Guild of Sandusky embarked on a citywide project to collect and catalog information on historic buildings, structures, sites, and objects with the goal of promoting restoration and preservation. Forty-three volunteers surveyed 42 districts of the city and recorded information on forms provided by the state. The results were typed and placed into volumes that are now housed in the Cooke Dorn Museum.

We are excited to announce that we are in the process of updating the inventory. In October we will be mailing a copy of the original inventory page to current owners of properties listed in the 1979 survey. In addition, we will be adding to the list and updating any additional information that owners may know about their property.

This research and update will take several months with a final inventory update projected to be completed in spring of 2023. As with any project of this scope, it will take time and some volunteer effort. Should you have an interest in helping with this update, please contact the Sandusky Old House Guild, Linda Smith, or William Schram.

**Special Recognition**

Each year the Preservation Committee selects homes and businesses for special recognition of their efforts to preserve buildings and structures in the Sandusky community. Throughout the year we look for these properties and accept nominations. A letter of recognition and congratulations is mailed, and a certificate of appreciation is presented to each owner. We currently have several properties up for consideration and welcome additional nominations from our members. The summer newsletter will list the 2022 recipients.

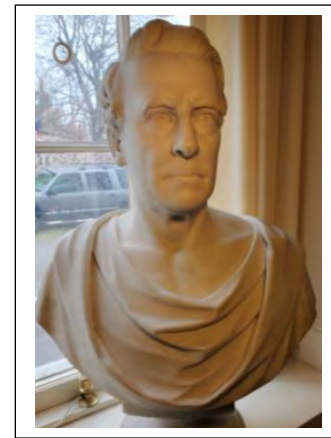
**Update**

Have you seen the transformation of the Johnson House at 417 Columbus Avenue? The owner, Leonard Johnson, who owned Johnson Island while it was a Confederate officer's prison camp rented this dwelling built in 1854 and later purchased it. The brick Italianate structure has the original house number, 59, in a colored glass transom over the front door. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This property was slated for

demolition and was vacant for many years. The Guild had the opportunity to purchase and protect the structure from further deterioration. We are thankful and encouraged to witness the new property owner, Larren Wikel, take over and continue the building restoration.

## Cooke-Dorn Museum

**Site Manager** Ed Stout



### Cooke-Dorn House in Need of Repair

The Cooke-Dorn House built by Eleutheros Cooke was originally on the present-day site of the Erie County office building. In 1879, Rush Sloane purchased the property from the Cooke heirs, upon which he intended to erect his Sloane House hotel. He had the home dismantled and moved to its present location at 1415 Columbus Avenue. A new stucco was applied to the reassembled home where finished block limestone did not cover.

When the Dorn's remodeled the home in the early 1950's, contractors used a different stucco product that did not breathe as well. Seventy years later, the second layer of stucco is loosening from the original, thus allowing water infiltration between. Freezing and thawing has caused areas to crack and deteriorate. We are attempting to secure grant requests to cover the repair expense of over \$93,000.

### Bust Donated to Guild

A bust of Elutheros Cooke has been donated by the Erie County Historical Society for display in the Cooke-Dorn Museum. Paris sculpture Joseph Bailey carved the piece



sometime between 1850-60. He is best known for his statue of George Washington. The bust can be viewed in the museum library.

### **New 2022 Museum Hours**

Our new hours will be open to the public from 12:00-3:00, Thursdays and Fridays, and 10:00-1:00, Saturdays. The season begins April 21 and runs through October 29. Other times can be arranged by calling Ed at 419-357-7473.

## **Your OHG Membership**

### **Membership Chair    Betsy Berkey**

We are in the process of updating our database of membership information. Please make sure you send me any changes to your address, phone number(s) and email address. You can text me at 440-796-2185 or email me at [betsy.w.berkey@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.w.berkey@gmail.com)

## **We Need Your Help!**

### **Volunteering**



**Events**

**Museum Tours**

**Gardening**

**Preservation**

**Membership**

**Giving**

Running our organization requires many hands. By volunteering your time and talent you can enjoy fellowship with our members while assisting with our important work. A list of opportunities is located on the last **page of our newsletter**. Simply call or email us and leave a message.

## Funding Our Work Treasurer of OHG Timothy Berkey



As you have read the featured articles of our newsletter it probably occurred to you that financing all these important endeavors is essential to our mission of preservation. Here is a breakdown of our financial needs:

### **Cooke-Dorn Museum**

As you know, the Old House Guild serves as the local management of the museum. The Ohio History Connection owns the property and provides an annual stipend of \$15,330 to operate the facility. Expenses include, utilities, housekeeping, security and fire safety, landscaping and exterior maintenance, insurance, and routine repairs. This leaves no room for major issues such as storm window restoration, heating/cooling upgrades, and a long list of preservation issues. Our current challenge is to raise funds to repair/replace exterior stucco and foundation issues that have resulted in water infiltration. The cost of this work will be close to \$100,000. See Ed Stout's update for specifics.

As a result, the OHG Board approved the creation of a capital campaign to include the pursuit of grants, donations, and public resources to cover the restoration costs of the museum. We will keep you informed of this initiative in future newsletters.

### **Old House Guild Activities**

Throughout this newsletter we have informed you of a variety of events and projects to advance the mission of our organization. These also require funds. The largest source of revenue for the Guild is our Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes. Unfortunately, we could not offer this event during the past two years due to the pandemic. Other revenue includes membership fees, donations and occasional events that carry a participation fee. If you have fundraising experience and would like to assist us, please get in touch by contacting the Guild.



## Retirement Thank You

As your Old House Guild membership manager and newsletter editor for the past 10 years, it has been my honor and privilege to keep you informed on all the activities that have occurred, both with the Guild and the Cooke-Dorn House Museum. It has always been challenging, exciting, and most importantly rewarding to keep you abreast and yet entertained while doing so. I truly thank you for having had the opportunity, and for you, as readers, your warm reception, and compliments on the newsletter over these many years.

My plate of duties has been quite full for many years, and I am now relinquishing some of those duties to other qualified people to carry on. Therefore, it is my privilege to introduce you to your new Guild membership manager and newsletter editor, Betsy Berkey. I am confident she will continue in my footsteps as well as make improvements to the newsletter that time, and tasks prohibited me from doing. She really is a talent waiting to be unleashed!

I will still contribute articles to the newsletter and assist Betsy wherever I may. However, I now will have more time to devote to the Cooke-Dorn House as its site manager. This is something I have needed for a long time, and I welcome the opportunity to care for and advance the museum in ways I was previously unable to do. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you and I leave you with "Hurry up and get here warm spring!" Sincerely, Ed Stout.

### The OHG Newsletter     Betsy Berkey, Editor

I am honored to take over the newsletter editor duties for the OHG and promise to work hard to provide members with updated information from each of our chairs and officers. We are sending the newsletter via email as this significantly reduces our costs and makes us more friendly to the environment. If you have not supplied us with an email, please do so. Until we have one, we will incur the cost of sending you a hard copy in the mail.

Finally, I am open to suggestions for content, so please reach out if you have ideas or maybe even want to contribute.

## Volunteer with the Old House Guild

### Opportunities

Museum Tour Guide	Fundraising	Event Helper
Grounds Helper	Historic Research	Sign Painter
Historic Inventory	Holiday Decorating	Mailings
Candlelight Tour Helper	Annual Dinner Helper	Membership

*And if you have any other talent to share in our organization, please let us know by calling or emailing us at the contacts listed below.*

### How to Contact Us

Board Members	<b>President</b> – Richard Keller	<b>Vice President</b> – Jack Mineo
	<b>Secretary</b> – Linda Howell	<b>Treasurer</b> – Timothy Berkey
	<b>Site Manager</b> – Ed Stout	<b>Member</b> – Paulette Grahl
	<b>Member</b> – Will Schram	<b>Member</b> – Linda Smith
	<b>Member</b> – Mary Truka	

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**Phone:** 419-627-0640      **Email:** [info@oldhouseguild.org](mailto:info@oldhouseguild.org)

**Website:** [www.oldhouseguild.org](http://www.oldhouseguild.org)      **Facebook:** Old House Guild of Sandusky