



The Old House Guild of Sandusky

Spring 2023 NEWS FOR MEMBERS 419-627-0640

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER SET FOR THURSDAY, MAY 18



THE OLD HOUSE GUILD OF SANDUSKY



CELEBRATE

SPRING!

Annual Dinner & Meeting

Grace Episcopal Church
315 Wayne Street - Sandusky, OH

Thursday May 18, 2023 - Social @ 5:30 PM - Dinner @ 6:00 PM

Dinner Buffet by Creative Cuisine of Sandusky
Brief business meeting by President Dr. Richard Keller

Featured Speaker - Guild Member & Historic Property Owner:

Mr. Dan Brennan

"Hidden Secrets of the Underground Railroad"

TO MAKE A RESERVATION, PLEASE CALL/TEXT:
Mary Truka @ 615.477.0699 by May 14



Message from OHG President

Dr. Richard Keller



We look forward to seeing you at our annual dinner and meeting May 18. The board has drafted several revisions to our Old House Guild Bylaws and will need your approval. These changes are updates to our existing procedures.

Progress best occurs as a result of that perfect combination of talent and dedication. Our mission of historic preservation is fostered by substantial efforts that include maintaining and displaying our museum, promotional activities via the “Candlelight Tour”, and by facilitating renovation of Sandusky’s historic homes and commercial buildings. Speaking for the Old House Guild board, we thank you for your interest and support.

Mission of the Old House Guild

To promote historic preservation and the restoration of significant buildings, houses, sites, and objects in the 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.

Events Committee

Linda Howell & Mary Truka

Please join us at our Annual Dinner & Meeting, **Thursday, May 18, 2023** at Grace Episcopal Church on Wayne Street. The Social will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. The meal is being served by Creative Cuisine of Sandusky. We will have a short business meeting led by our Board President, Dr Richard Keller, followed by a featured speaker. Mr. Dan Brennan, Guild Member and Historic Property Owner will present, "Hidden Secrets of the Underground Railroad."

Make Your Reservation:

Call/Text Mary Truka (615) 477-0699 by May 14

Stucco Removal on the North Wall of the Cooke-Dorn

Cooke-Dorn Museum

Site Manager Ed Stout

Around the Cooke-Dorn House

Spring is here and the flower bulbs are displaying their beauty. It is a small testament to the beautiful amount of flowers that once adorned the landscape created by Estelle Dorn. Look for a newly acquired park bench to appear in front of the museum for guests to use. And soon, the driveway and parking area that was resurfaced in 2021, will be seal coated. This will occur on a weekend when the museum is closed.

Earlier this year when a wind storm went through, one of the large seventy-foot-tall pine trees came crashing down in the backyard of the museum. Thankfully, the lengthy spread of the branches, minimized damage to the surrounding landscape by keeping the trunk of the tree four feet off the ground. Since then, it has been cut up and disposed of in preparation for the opening of the 2023 visitor season. Consideration is being given to the possible removal of the remaining nine pine trees for safety reasons.

Our new museum season kicked off on Wednesday, April 19th. The new hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Special tours at other times or days can still be arranged by calling Ed at 419-357-7473. Please allow a couple of days' notice to arrange a tour outside normal hours.

For those of you who may not have driven by the museum recently or do not get the Sandusky Register, initial work has begun on the north wall of the museum. Most of the stucco has been removed in the area by the parking area. This was done because both layers of stucco had become delaminated from the stone wall behind and were falling off. Initially it was to have a new coat of stucco after the stone wall had been tuck pointed. Research of the early homes of Sandusky, including all the homes built by Eleutheros Cooke, reveal that stucco on all rubble stone walls in Sandusky did not occur until after the end of the Civil War in 1865. This was done to some earlier homes as a way to beautify or modernize their look. When the Cooke house was relocated from downtown to its present site in 1879-1880, the original coat of stucco was applied.

When stucco was applied, it was not painted and possessed a brownish darker appearance compared to the lightness of limestone. The few early photographs of the Cooke house downtown do not show a darker appearance to the side or rear walls. It is thereby assumed that they consisted of exposed rubble stone, which was the norm at that time. Discussions are now in progress as whether to leave the rubble stone finish or to apply a new coat of stucco. If we are to reflect how the home was initially constructed, the rubble stone walls will be left exposed. If the thought is to keep the home as it was reassembled at the present site, new stucco will be applied. Regardless, the project will be finished this year.

Preservation Committee

Will Schram & Linda Smith

Spring greetings to everyone. It's nice to have better weather and be able to open the windows and just have that renewed feeling as spring unfolds. Preservation is much like spring. . . a renewal of sorts that brings back to life those long-loved properties of days gone by.

Have you seen those white signs around town that showcase the homes that received the Preservation Award for 2022? The picture attached shows one of our new board members, Laurie Hille, assisting in placing the signs on one of the eighteen award recipients.



Have you spotted a property in town that is undergoing or has just recently completed renovations? Give Linda or me a call with the address so that we can continue to recognize those properties and their owners. The continued efforts of our homeowners who invest in their properties as well as preserve/renovate them add to the property values in the community as well as maintain and preserve our architectural history. They tell the story of the fabric of our lives.

With that said, there is an additional way that you as a member can help the Preservation Committee as we work towards starting and maintaining a list of skilled trades that specialize in restoration work. We would like to be a go-to place for information and

contacts as people start their preservation/renovation project. Do you know of a skilled stoneman/bricklayer, or perhaps a great carpenter/carver? How about lead or stained-glass restorers? Any individual that knows and loves preservation and retains the old skills needed to preserve properties today is what we are looking for. One of the biggest hurdles in preservation/renovation at times can be finding someone who understands the ins and outs of historical preservation and is a craftsman.

Additionally, we will continue to incorporate discussions that enhance our mission statement and start a conversation about just what preservation means today. We welcome your input as we promote rehabilitation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of properties. Is restoration strictly rebuilding with the exact same materials or is it also rebuilding with modern materials that can replicate the original design but are perhaps more efficient cost-wise and provide the same historical aesthetic qualities? We want your input as we look to expand our interpretation of preservation endeavors.

In the next edition of the newsletter, you will see as part of our article, and as an ongoing tutorial, informative tips, and ideas that will help you in your restoration and preservation of homes. For those of you who have previously renovated and learned a thing or two please forward your thoughts and ideas to either Linda Smith or me so that we can share them with the rest of our membership.

Finally, we are still in the planning stages of our biggest endeavor yet, the expansion of the Inventory of Historic Sandusky Properties which we hope will eventually lead to a follow-up of Ellie Damm's original book. We are actively collecting names for anyone who would like to assist in this huge undertaking. We will need canvassers, photographers, data entry people, group leaders, library researchers, and much more. There are opportunities for every one of every skilled capacity. We need your support and commitment!

Currently, we are gathering names of those who can contribute to this effort as we continue to lay the groundwork for this exciting collaboration between the City of Sandusky and the Ohio History Connection. A reminder - did you receive your copy of the previous survey that was mailed to you last fall? Have you sent it back in yet? This is a key help as we continue to move forward with this project.

Check The OHG Website for Preservation Tips & Resources:

<https://www.oldhouseguild.org/preservation-tips-and-resources/>



Membership

Membership Chair Betsy Berkey

Membership Drive 2023

The OHG Membership Drive for 2023 has been a success! Our official roster represents a total of 245 members. Since our memberships are based upon a household which may have more than one member, the total of memberships vs. people varies.

This year we added two lifetime memberships which brings our total to 37.

We're also happy to announce there are 33 complimentary 2023 new memberships this year. We welcome the host owners in the Candlelight Tour of Homes and community members who completed and returned the 1979 Historic Inventory Update form.

Welcome aboard!

Finally, we received 49 renewal membership payments but still have 38 yet to be paid. The Board decided to keep all members on our rosters through January 2024, so if you want to continue your membership, please renew now. Go to the membership tab at the top of our website for instructions and links.

Website Updates

Welcome to our new Webmaster - Board Member Margaret See

Margaret has volunteered to take over duties related to the management of our website. If you have requests, suggestions, or ideas you wish to share with her forward them to our OHG email address: infor@oldhouseguild.org

Remember to check the changes made to our website! There are numerous tools available to you. If you have a neighbor or friend who is doing home remodeling we have a variety of helpful web links and YouTube videos. This is a great way to engage more people in the work of our organization!

New Pictures - of events throughout the year including the 2022 Candlelight Tour

Newsletters - a place where the current and past newsletters are archived

Donations - can now be made off the website using Paypal or credit card

Membership - can be now paid electronically using Paypal or credit card

Preservation Tools - links to resources for restoration work plus YouTube video links showing how to conduct a variety of restoration projects at home

Home Roots - tips on how to conduct research of the history of your home/property

Events - a place listing upcoming events and how to volunteer

www.oldhouseguild.org

Funding Our Work

Dr. Timothy Berkey Treasurer

2023 Annual Budget Approved

Last month, the OHG Board adopted the 2023 Annual Budget. These are presented below, one for the OHG membership and the other for the operation of the Cooke-Dorn Museum.

OHG Budget

The Old House Budget consists of revenues from interest on our CD, donations, memberships, sales of Boy & the Boot miniatures, and our largest source, the annual Candlelight Tour of Homes. Our major expenditures consists of expenses related to the annual tour, and our annual membership dinner. During Covid, we suspended membership fees as well as events. We are getting back to normal and thus not listed in the expense section are any new activities the Guild will be offering this fiscal year. These are always ongoing and when a new event is considered by the board, we will revise the budget accordingly. In order to offer more, we need to fund more and thus we always welcome the generosity of our donors.

Cooke-Dorn Budget

The Cooke-Dorn Budget is exclusively focused on the operation of the museum. We have two sources of income for this budget. First, as the site management for the state, we receive an annual stipend to cover ongoing expenses for the upkeep of the interior and exterior of the museum, along with minor repairs and operational services. Our Site Manager, Ed Stout does not receive a salary. The other source of income are donations made by those visiting the museum.

We always have unexpected expenses that require us to adjust the budget throughout the year. A good example is our commitment to provide a substantial contribution to the repair work to the exterior of the museum building (see Ed’s article). We were successful in obtaining a grant from our local Dorn Foundation to assist with some of the cost. We will also use part of our annual state stipend once we have the estimated project cost from the Ohio History Connection (OHC). The state will be funding the majority of the cost but are looking for us to assist.

OLD HOUSE GUILD		2023 FINAL BUDGET		COOKE DORN MUSEUM		2023 FINAL BUDGET	
REVENUES			2023	REVENUES			2023
	CD INTEREST		150.00		OHC STIPENDS		15330.00
	DONATIONS		170.00		DONATIONS		600.00
	MEMBERSHIPS		2675.00		TOTAL		15930.00
	BOY & BOOT SALES		143.75				
	CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES		12000.00	EXPENSES			
	TOTAL REVENUES		15138.75		ELECTRIC		1000.00
EXPENSES					GAS		1800.00
	OFFICE EXPENSES		200.00		WATER		424.92
	WEBSITE REDESIGN/UPDATES/DOMAIN NAME FEE		200.00		VERIZON		400.00
	ANNUAL DINNER/HOLIDAY RECEPTION FOR MEMBERSHIP		2000.00		SPRING PLANTING/MULCH/FERTILIZER/YARD WASTE		250.00
	SANDUSKY LIBRARY DONATION		100.00		TRS LANDSCAPING		700.00
	VOLUNTEER DINNER		1000.00		HOUSEKEEPING		780.00
	CANDLELIGHT TOUR HOSTS		600.00		FALL CLEANUP/PREP		1000.00
	CANDLELIGHT TOUR EXPENSES		1200.00		TREE SERVICE		200.00
	DONATIONS - MEMORIALS		200.00		ELECTRICAL LINES/OUTLETS		40.00
	NEWSLETTER		200.00		PLUMBING/BACKFLOW/WATER LINE REPAIR		200.00
	TOTAL		5700.00		EXTERMINATION SERVICE		50.00
					POSTAGE		50.00
					LIABILITY INSURANCE		770.00
					GREENHOUSE REPAIRS		300.00
					OFFICE SUPPLIES		50.00
					TOTAL		8014.92

Want to Donate to the Old House Guild?



Very easy to do! Use your phone and scan our QR code at the left. It is also located on our website. Or, you can also write a check made out to the Old House Guild and designate if your donation is for the OHG account or the Cooke-Dorn. You can use a credit card or if you have your own Paypal account, that will work as well. Thank you for your generous

From the Editor

Betsy Berkey Editor

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding our newsletter. Our goal is to provide you with information about current Guild initiatives, upcoming activities, and most important, plans to keep us focused on our important work of preservation. Each quarter we ask the chairs and officers to submit articles to accomplish this. In addition, I reach out to others who can contribute interesting stories that I hope you find worthy of reading.

Please know that we enjoy hearing from our members if you have something interesting about the history of the city or the Guild that you would like to share, email me if you are willing to submit an article. And even if you are uncomfortable writing, you can jot down some notes or call and story-tell. I'll take it from there and work with you on a piece that shares your story!

Betsy Berkey - betsy.w.berkey@gmail.com

440-796-2185

Note: we now post all past and present newsletters on our website so if you want to go back and read issues, they are there for your use.

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	President – Richard Keller	Vice President – Jack Mineo
	Secretary – Linda Howell	Treasurer – Timothy Berkey
	Site Manager – Ed Stout	Member – Mary Truka
	Member – Will Schram	Member – Linda Smith
	Member – Laurie Hille	Member – Tracy Hille
	Member – Margaret See	

Address: Old House Guild of Sandusky 1415 Columbus Ave. Sandusky, OH 44870

Phone: 419-627-0640 **Email:** info@oldhouseguild.org

Website: www.oldhouseguild.org **Facebook:** Old House Guild of Sandusky



2023 Cooke-Dorn Hours

Wednesday - Friday

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Special Tours can be arranged

Call Ed Stout: (419) 357-7473