

# *The Old House Guild of Sandusky*

**SPRING 2025 NEWS FOR MEMBERS 419-627-0640**



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**Annual Dinner - May 15, 2025**

**Sandusky Yacht Club**

***“Preserving Our History”***

Don't forget to make your reservation for our Annual OHG Dinner. This year we will be recognizing six property owners with our expanded preservation awards program. In addition, we will hear updates from our board members on current and future initiatives.



**Haven't Made a Reservation?**

**Call/Text Linda Howell**

**419-202-4531**

**LAH1124WAYNE@AOL.COM**

**DEADLINE is May 8<sup>th</sup>!**

**(See page 4 for more details)**



## Message from OHG President

Dr. Richard Keller



## Thanks to Volunteers

*For 30 years, dozens of OHG members have volunteered thousands of hours at the historic Cooke-Dorn house. As we conclude our management of the facility, our board extends a well-deserved congratulations for all of your hard work. Well done!*

## 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

Suzanne Stuck

### D.I.Y. Series #4 - April 23

### “Old House Through New Eyes”



The Sandusky Library was the site for the fourth in a series entitled, “Old House Through New Eyes.” This free-to-the-public Painting seminar featured Sam Adya, Manager of Sandusky Sherwin Williams Paints. In approximately one hour, Mr. Adya covered numerous topics to educate guests on how to handle the smallest job to extreme tasks sharing visual examples pertaining to painting.

During the presentation Sam welcomed questions from the audience and offered his advice to assist home owners in making the best decisions. Everything from dealing with problem textures to picking the correct products, choosing a painter, and dealing with lead paint was discussed.

Watch for news of the next D.I.Y. presentation covering another topic on preservation that will take place in the fall. Your recommendations about future topics are greatly appreciated.

### SAVE THE DATE . . .

**SUMMER GARDEN TOUR - SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025**  
**12:00-5:00 PM**



## 2025 Annual Membership Banquet

May 15, 2025

Sandusky Yacht Club

Social Hour 5-6pm

Buffet Dinner 6pm

**Hurry & Get Your Reservation - Deadline is May 8th!**

Finally we would like to remind everyone that **reservations for May 15th banquet have to be confirmed by Thursday, May 8th.** All 2025 Members and Life Members along with those who possibly forgot to renew their membership should have received an invitation sent by U.S. mail. We have what we feel is a very interesting program that highlights our main goal -



**Preservation.** Join us for an evening to step back in time as we move toward the future. The dinner is free to current (2025) membership. If you have not renewed your membership you can pay it at the door. Guests are \$35, also payable at that time.

## Reservations:

Call/Text Linda Howell

419-202-4531

[LAH1124WAYNE@AOL.COM](mailto:LAH1124WAYNE@AOL.COM)

(you will receive a confirmation reply)



## Menu

House Salad

Chicken Marsala - Burgundy Beef Tips

Potatoes Au Gratin - Lemon Butter Broccoli

Dinner Rolls Dessert

coffee, hot tea, iced tea, lemonade, soda

*Bar service available-credit/debit card only*

*Please advise of dietary limits at time of reservation*

## Preservation

**Mary Truka, Chair**

**Tim Berkey**

**Betsy Berkey**

Our OHG Board spent time over the last year reexamining the origin and purpose of our organization. This helped us refocus our future work on historical preservation. As announced in our last newsletter, we therefore used our OHG Mission Statement to place further definition to our preservation work. Using the categories listed, we identified six properties in Sandusky that are deserving of recognition in the 2025 Preservation Awards program. Please understand that each selection can have features that fit into more than one category. And not all categories will be represented each awards year. You can help us to identify future examples of preservation work in the community. We try to keep track of these, but can miss some, so please give us a heads up if you notice one of them!

We are pleased to announce the following awards for 2025:

**532 Wayne Street – Nolan & Alexa Murray  
Preservation Award**



Nolan and Alexa gave the exterior of their home the TLC that was needed. This included foundation work and replacement of pillars to the Colonial-Revival porch, window restoration, and fresh paint that accents the historical cast iron features of the Italianate façade. The house was built in 1868 by George March, a prominent dry goods dealer.

**519 Wayne Street – Christopher & Shawnasy Lucas  
Restoration Award**



One of the exciting things to see is when a property owner turns back time and restores a home to original historical features. The Lucas's had the second coat of modern siding removed and the original restored to excellent condition. The 1889 Victorian built by Abram Lebensburger features trim, pillars, and ballister, representing Eastlake and Queen Anne styles. Along with his father and brothers, the Lebensburgers operated a men's clothing store at the southeast corner of Columbus Avenue and East Market Street.

**209 Fulton Street – Christopher & Susan Oppelt  
Adaptive Reuse Award**



It's fun to see a building of former use turned into something else that preserves utility. This is the case of the West Market School, built in 1844. It is the only survivor to Sandusky's early commitment to public education. Two other grade schools and a high school were built in the same time period. It was used for approximately 60 years. Thanks to the work of the Oppelt's, the building is now an attractive single family dwelling.



**403 East Adams Street – Chris & Roberta Wiedle  
The Rush Sloane House  
Preservation Award**



Many of us had the pleasure of touring and viewing the incredible interior restoration work that was completed by the Wiedle's. Their preservation of the property is jointly owned. They generously pay homage to the late Ruth Parker who rescued the structure and began the work before her passing.

**149 East Water Street – Family Health Services  
David Tatro, CEO  
The Granary  
Adaptive Reuse Award**



Built in 1868, The William Robertson Wholesale Grocery later became a granary operated as an outlet for Gallagher's Mill in Venice, Ohio. It remained a granary from 1911-1950. The High Victorian style includes bracketed eaves and arched braiding over the upper windows. The indented space in between floors holds the sign board. The original iron posts remain at the street level. Family Health spent \$4.1 million adding two additional floors and completing exterior work that preserves the integrity of the original structure.



114 West Adams Street  
The Sandusky Library  
Molly Carver - Executive Director  
The Carnegie Library  
Preservation Award



Built in 1901, the structure was funded by Andrew Carnegie's contribution of \$50,000. Designed by Albert D'Oench and Joseph W. Yost, the Second Romanesque-Revival structure has twin turrets with battlements. Stone panels with carved books decorate the façade between the main windows. The portico with massive pillars leads to a main door. The recent work allows us to see what the building looked like when built. The work resulted in close attention to authentication with the use of building materials closely associated to the original structure. It also included restoration to the old Erie County Jail of 1883 that became part of the 1996 expansion and the new 2004 addition. In addition, work was also scheduled for the historic Follett House on Wayne Street. This work could also fall into the restoration category but the main emphasis was preservation.

## Cooke-Dorn House

Site Manager

Ed Stout



The Cooke-Dorn House sits quietly on Columbus Avenue. With the Old House Guild ending their stewardship of the facility on June 30th, no further tours of the home or property are being conducted. The Guild is in the process of transferring all responsibilities back to the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, the State agency that owns the site.

In the meantime, the Guild is preparing to move all their organizational items to a new location. We began our formal organization work in an office at the Hubbard House in 1980. Upon taking over stewardship of the Cooke-Dorn House in 1995, we relocated our base from the Hubbard House. Further cleanup is being accomplished to return the site to management by the Ohio History Connection.

### **Greenhouse Plant Pickup**

Those having plants that were housed in the greenhouse over the winter, may contact Ed at 419-357-7473 to arrange a time to pick them up in May. Only Saturdays are not available for that purpose since I have employment that makes it not possible.

## 2025 Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes Returns

### December 6/7

### 5:00-9:00 pm

**Ed Stout**  
Chair

**Laurie Hille**

**Suzanne Stuck**

**Betsy Berkey**



We're back! The Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes is returning for the 2025 season. The event will occur on Saturday and Sunday, December 6&7, between 5:00-7:00 pm. Our committee is planning a grand return to kick off the Christmas holiday season.

Changes are underway to make this event more exciting and 21<sup>st</sup> century friendly for participants. A new feature will include online pre-tour tickets. In-person pre-tour tickets will continue at Corso's Flower and Garden Center by cash or check. During days of the tour, tickets will only be sold at the Boeckling Club by the Old House Guild. More details will be shared at a later date.

We are pleased to announce that our new base location will now be the Boeckling Club on Columbus Avenue. We will continue to stage raffles at this location along with day of the event ticket sales. The club is open to the public and will have food and beverages available.

Our committee is in the process of identifying homes for the tour. If you know of someone interested in opening their residence please contact anyone on our committee:



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Suzanne Stuck     [suzi.stuck@oldhouseguild.org](mailto:suzi.stuck@oldhouseguild.org)  
Betsy Berkey      [betsy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org](mailto:betsy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org)

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## Funding Our Work

Laurie Hille - Treasurer

### OHG Financial Standing

Our financial standing remains strong for 2025. We continue to have a CD investment instrument with Civista Bank. It matures in May of this year and averages \$375 per month in earnings. We will be reviewing renewal options with a goal of continuing the trend of nice earnings. Our checking account is healthy as well with just under \$17.5 thousand in reserve. This will help us fund our recent DIY event, membership banquet, garden tour, tour of homes and other events to be planned for the remainder of 2025.

### Cooke-Dorn House Transition Activities

With our transition away from the management of the Cooke-Dorn property, I have been working over the past few weeks on some related activities. A post office box has been secured to receive mailings. **Our new address is PO Box 523, Sandusky, OH 44870.** This is now reflected on our website. I have also been in contact with the Ohio History Connection to move the billing for utilities to their organization. This will be completed as we wind down our management of the property.



## 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 contributions!

## 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:rick.keller@oldhouseguild.org">rick.keller@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Vice President - Timothy Berkey	<a href="mailto:timothy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org">timothy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Secretary - Linda Howell	<a href="mailto:linda.howell@oldhouseguild.org">linda.howell@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Treasurer - Laurie Hille	<a href="mailto:laurie.hille@oldhouseguild.org">laurie.hille@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Preservation - Mary Truka	<a href="mailto:mary.truka@oldhouseguild.org">mary.truka@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Candlelight Tour - Ed Stout	<a href="mailto:ed.stout@oldhouseguild.org">ed.stout@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Membership - Tracy Hille	<a href="mailto:tracy.hille@oldhouseguild.org">tracy.hille@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Newsletter - Betsy Berkey	<a href="mailto:betsy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org">betsy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org</a>
Member - Suzanne Stuck	<a href="mailto:suzi.stuck@oldhouseguild.org">suzi.stuck@oldhouseguild.org</a>

#### Address:

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