

Palatine Settlement Society

Newsletter

2006 Board of Trustees

- Mary Nellis Davis, President
- Ron Burch, Vice President
- Sandy Nellis Lane, Secretary
- Walt Lane, Treasurer
- Donna Reston
- Joan Draus

Rhubarb, Anyone???

Our 10th Annual Rhubarb Festival, the first Sunday in June, was once again a tremendous success. The Tavern was filled to the brim with pies and cookies, snacks and sauces, almost anything imaginable that could be made from rhubarb. There were even some bunches of fresh rhubarb for those hardy individuals who wanted to cook their own.

three winning pies to an enthusiastic crowd.

The Lil' Miss Rhubarb contest, organized by Joan Draus, had 10 entrants, ages 6 to 9. Each contestant received a thank you package of goods, while the winner, took home a \$100 savings bond.



Three judges, Barbara Spraker, Nancy Smith, and Nan Ressue, tasted the 12 entries in the pie contest shortly after Noon and awarded first place to Lisa Harvey for her pineapple coconut custard rhubarb pie. Second place went to Rose Grey for a scrumptious strawberry rhubarb pie, while the third place, plain rhubarb pie was baked by Veronica Howard. The youth winner was Morgan Tryon who presented a tasty rhubarb-blueberry surprise.

Throughout the day, a continual bake sale was ongoing in the kitchen, while non-rhubarb refreshments were sold in the back yard.

The Sun Mountain Fiddler entertained the crowd from the porch from 12 - 3 PM. From 3 - 5 PM, Revisions, a barbershop quartet, sang for the folks in the public room. The hiring of both acts was made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts administered by the Tri County Arts Council.

Margaret Thomas organized the pie contest judging and Auctioneer, Bob Smith, sold off the

Inside this issue:

- Donna's Antique Quilt Show Has Grown 2
- Antique Show Held 2
- Ghosts, Specters & Spirits 2
- Spring Dinner Aids Roof Fund 3
- What's New at the Tavern? 3
- Annual Meeting October 12, 2006 4

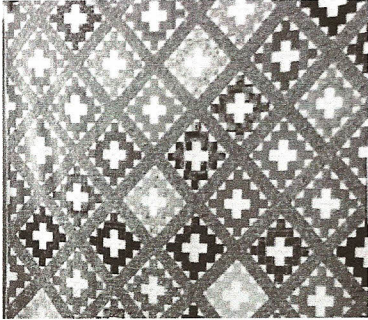
FOR SALE

WE STILL HAVE A FEW RHUBARB COOKBOOKS (\$5.00), NELLIS TAVERN NAVY T-SHIRTS (\$15.00) AND GREEN SWEATSHIRTS (\$25.00). JUST CALL (518)762-8259 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND WE CAN SHIP THEM RIGHT

Fall Dinner Planned

Donna's Antique Quilt Show Has Grown

Sunday, May 14th, 2006 was the date of the first annual **Textile and Fiber Show and Sale**,



Nellis Quilt on display at the Nellis Tavern

held at the Nellis Tavern as our first public event of the year. This show is the outgrowth of the annual Antique Quilt Shows that Donna

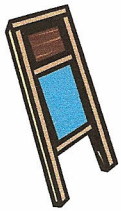
Reston has spearheaded for the past several years.

The second-floor "ballroom" held a bedcover show organized by Donna, who displayed a large number of coverlets, quilts and blankets.

A display of antique textile items from a private collection was on the first floor along with a number of volunteers and vendors with their demonstrations and sales of various arts and skills. Included were Barbara Hojohn of Circuit Spinsters with spinning; Sandy Lane with hand knitting; Sally Kuehl of Stitching by the Shore

Antique Show Held

The PSS held its first indoor antique show in the meeting room of the St. Johnsville Community House in July. Considerable advertising was sent to local and area media.



Sysdek, also as a donation.

Eleven dealers set up a wide variety of wares, and Ella Mae Oxford of Shuler & Duross Antiques donated her time and expertise to do appraisals for our patrons. Mary Nellis Davis and family provided refreshments.

Dennis Drenzek donated the design of a striking show poster, which was produced for us by Ship and Copy, Tom

Ghosts, Specters & Spirits

The 2nd annual Psychic Fair took place at the Tavern on September 17 from 12 –5 PM with over 100 inquisitive customers keeping four palm readers very busy. In addition, the Mohawk Valley Paranormal Society displayed its wares and lectured on techniques of using photography to capture glimpses of other world inhabitants in haunted places.

Mentalist, Gigi Miner of Tarot Cards, Joan Myers from Rome, NY, and Betty Petosek of Little Falls Palm and Cards.

Refreshments were available in the back yard. All in attendance had a fun time. Next year's fair promises to be even bigger and better.

Card readers were Judy Reich, the Jade Fox

Spring Dinner Aids Roof Fund

Our annual Spring Benefit Dinner, "A Tale of Two Taverns" was held on April 30 at Saltzman's Hotel in Ephratah, scene of many balls and galas in years when parties arrived by stagecoach.

This assembly featured many diners dressed in their finery of colonial garb suitable for persons visiting the Nellis Tavern in the early 1800's.

Following conversations and cocktails in the taproom, our group moved to the dining room for a hearty meal. Platters of steaming roast beef and fried chicken were served with home-

made breads and corn fritters, and specialties of the house, creamed onions and creamed potatoes.

"Revisions" quartet delighted us with many musical selections. Walt, Ed, Jim, and Chris brought us back in time as we listened to the songs of yester-year, familiar tunes to all in attendance, and sang along with a few.

A heartfelt "thank you" to all who dined with us and helped generate nearly \$600 to be used for the new roof at the Tavern.



What's New at the Tavern

The first thing you will notice as you approach the Tavern is our newly redesigned and painted sign out front, compliments of member Mike White.

Inside, the kitchen now has a frame and Plexiglas cover over the wattle and daub in the northwest corner, and the tavern room sports new molding, thanks to Peter Kruppenbacher. Our good friend Skip Barshied has restored the upstairs doorframes with molding to match the original.

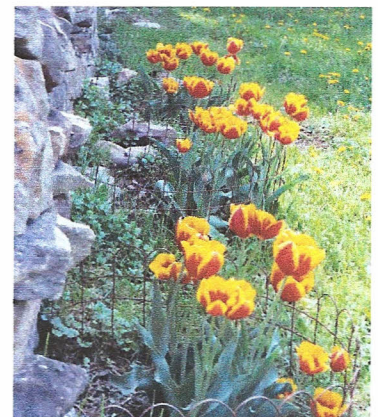
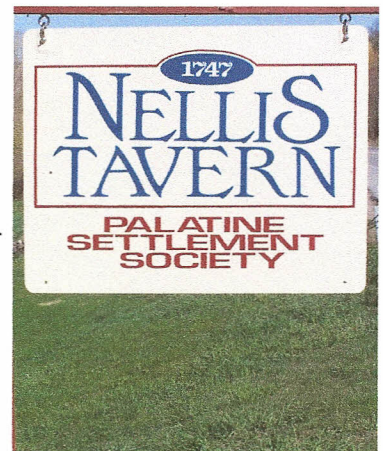
The windows in the east room, the 1815 addition, and the second-floor bedroom above it, have had UV protection film placed on each pane of glass. This will hopefully protect the remaining stencils and other artifacts so spec-

The ground floor rooms (cellar) have new lights and electrical outlets and are ready visitors. A new entrance door to the original kitchen, under the tavern room, is planned in the very near future. The public room, or east room, now has electricity for lights or entertaining.

Several new pieces of furniture have been donated, and an assortment of period tin ware reproductions now add to the décor.

Our rhubarb patch survived last year's very dry summer and this year's floods and has flourished nicely. So too have the Nellis tulips which were beautiful in the late spring.

Next, among several projects under consideration, will be restoring the plaster on the first-





1747 Nellis Tavern

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Newsletter

Annual Meeting to be Held October 12, 2006

The Palatine Settlement Society will hold its annual meeting at the Nellis Tavern, Rt. 5, St. Johnsville, NY on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 6:00PM. Please come for annual reports, election of trustees and officers and to plan next year's events and improvements.

