

Skene Manor Newsletter

Whitehall Skene Manor Preservation, Inc.

8 Potters Terrace, Whitehall, NY 12887

Skene Manor is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12pm - 4pm. We look forward to your visit. Have lunch, go on a free tour, visit the Gift Shop and enjoy the spectacular view of historic Whitehall, N.Y.

The Castle Cryer

Spring 2016

When Skene Manor opens on Friday, April 22nd we will begin the 21st year in which an amazingly dedicated group of volunteers continue the work of preserving a building that perhaps has become the signature representation of the Village of Whitehall. I suspect, like many a Whitehall resident, I had no idea of the complex history of Judge Potter's house, or the struggle to keep it standing watch over the village. Finally, two years ago, I was persuaded to join the volunteers at the manor and become a docent, or tour guide. Saying yes to that invitation has really opened my eyes to the behind the scenes work that the volunteers do not just for the manor itself, but by extension for the cultural and historical life of Whitehall.

The first amazing fact was that **Skene Manor has no employees!** The people who prepare the meals in the tea room, who serve the meals, who wash the dishes, who welcome visitors, who manage the gift shop, who lead the tours, who manage the landscaping, and look after the building maintenance are **all volunteers!** Sometimes even those who are called to take care of maintenance problems requiring a professional decide to donate their time! Many of you have been volunteering at the manor so long that you don't see it as the extraordinary gift that it is, and how unusual that an entire organization could be run without paid staff.

So hats off to the entire Skene Manor community for 20 years of exceptional dedication!

However, to insure that this important work continues, we do need to convince others to join us. To add volunteers from the community will not only spread the work among more hands, but will also connect the people of the town and village more directly to the Castle on the Hill. The more people who have invested their time and energy in the operation of Skene Manor, the more important it is to the town and village. I hope we can be very intentional about inviting others to join us in our work.

Finally, I thank you for the honor of serving as the President of Skene Manor Preservation for 2016. I'm looking forward to working for another great season and to seeing significant steps in all aspects of our purpose of restoration of the Manor and transmitting a piece of the history of our area.

Richard F Brewer, President

Please check out the dates listed below for some exciting events as we begin the 2016 season!

Friday, April 22nd - Opening Day 2016!

Sunday, May 8th - Mother's Day Brunch, includes a free flower for all Mom's.

Wednesday, May 25th - Skene Manor will host it's first Special Monthly Dinner* of 2016.

*Special Monthly dinners are held the fourth Wednesday of each month. Every month has a special theme.

POTTER'S PURSE - Please join us in our fundraising program, openings for Potter's Purse are now available! Only 300 tickets are available at \$5 each. Winners are picked at the regular monthly meeting. **Six CASH Prizes & a free lunch for 2 are drawn every month.** Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6pm. You can join by sending your request to Skene Manor, 8 Potters Terrace, Whitehall NY 12887 or call 499-1906 or ask any of our volunteers for more info.

Plan ahead now for next year! Skene Manor is a unique and beautiful place to host your next Special event, Anniversary or Class Reunion!

Please call 499-1906 for more information

