

MUSEUMS MATTER! HELP US SAVE OUR GEM: THE WEM!

**Walter Elwood Museum
Newsletter- November 2007**

Hello & Seasons Greetings!

2007 has been a very busy year at the Walter Elwood Museum. This small newsletter is packed full of information about what we have been working on to enhance this little gem we call the WEM. Plus what we have planned for 2008 and beyond.

Hours are expanding! As of 12/1/07, we will be open on Saturday from 10-2pm. Bring the kids and stop down!

Introductions

I would like to introduce myself to all. I began my Interim Director tenure on 10/29/07 and have been very busy these first few weeks making the transition from a member of the Board of Trustees to the Interim Director. I am excited and honored to be given such an opportunity. I have many ideas and plans. These include expanded and enhanced Educational Programming during school vacation weeks and Summer Enrichment, extending curricular support to the GASD and regional school districts to share our rich and varied collection and to promote field trip visits to our exhibits especially our new DISCOVERY exhibit dedicated to the life long passions of Walter Elwood. Please stop in or call. I am eager and interested to meet you and hear your ideas and suggestions on where you might think the WEM should be headed in the next year or so.

Ann M. Peconie
518.843.5151
museum@nycap.rr.com



DISCOVERY Exhibit

Opened on 10/27/07, it is our best yet! Thanks to the financial support of the New York State Council on the Arts, Institute For Museum and Library Services, New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and the CTW Fund with additional support provided by Arkell Hall, Assemblyman Paul Tonko, and GASD. This exhibit replaces our former Indian Room. Using our diverse collections, visitors can use objects to discover the qualities that lead to life long active learning through Observation, Discovery and Participation. The exhibit includes five interactive stations where children and families can experience how Mr. Elwood studied. It allows for a changing selection of objects in our collection- from button collections, to hand-made doll clothes, to glass teaching slides to political buttons to fossils and shells. We cannot wait to hear the feedback and positive reactions of the school children and community members to this new exhibit. School field trips have already begun and the response is tremendous!



Gift Shop Relocation and Renovation

Now located on the first floor and much more accessible to our entrance, our Gift Shop shares space with our Victorian Room. The Gift Shop has been beautifully repainted and renovated to include new and fresh temptations for your choosing. We have also included a collection of local area artisans' wares through our Artists Co-Op that Carol Jordan was kind enough to help organize. We have beautiful functional and usable works from local artists as close as Amsterdam and as far as Cobleskill, plus lots of unique and affordably priced holiday gifts. We have also updated our children's gift selections. We think you will be pleased with the variety! Come and do some holiday shopping soon.

Collection Management Strides and Improvements

Thanks to our ever hard-working Collections Manager, Kathleen Coleman, many strides have been made. Kathleen properly cleaned, organized and restored many of our textiles including our dresses, hats, and clothing from the 1800-1900's. Kathleen also completely rehoused all of what was once in our Library. Slowly but surely, progress is being made to help properly preserve the wonderful collection we have to share with the community. Kathleen will be leaving us at the end of 2007. She is joining the Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa. Kathleen has graciously offered to stay on and help the WEM complete important collections storage projects one day a week and will hopefully assist in the training of her Collections Manager replacement in 2008.

Folk Art Exhibit-"Becoming Attractions: Vernacular Displays in Montgomery County"

An exhibition of a unique form of artistic expression: **yard art** (also known as "vernacular display"). The exhibit features actual objects and fantastic photographs by Jennifer Young Photography of artwork found in suburban yards, front porches and alongside country roads. These creations are humorous, sentimental and markedly individualistic. On exhibit until February 2008. Come check it out in our upstairs gallery!



2007 Annual Fund Drive-MUSEUMS MATTER!

The WEM is kicking off its first annual Fund Drive. In the past we have done Membership Drives, but never a Fund Drive. Our first Annual Fund Drive goal is \$25,000. This annual drive goal equals less than 25% of the museum's \$120,000+ annual operating budget. We have to raise over \$10,000 a month to operate this gem of a museum and we cannot do it without your help and annual support! For over 25 years at our current location and over 50 years total, the WEM has given all free access to a fantastic collection of local and Mohawk Valley heritage and history.

Your donations this year ensure that the lights go on, the doors stay open and that staff is ready for visitors year round. Your financial support has the power to inspire imaginations and enrich lives for the benefit of the Amsterdam community and the entire region. Please consider helping us by supporting the WEM's 2007 Annual Fund. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

The WEM needs your direct sponsorship to help fund programs in our local area. Your dollars will aid the WEM in keeping our mission alive and well for future generations to come to enjoy and embrace.

2008 Upcoming Events

- December 15, 2007**- Holiday Open House, 10-2pm
- February**- Winter Break- Enrichment Programming classes for children and adolescents
- February**- Gratitude Gathering- evening to honor all of new members and fund drive donors
- March**- Winter Art Show
- March**- Slavic Easter Traditions on our area- Polish, Lithuanian, and Ukrainian Customs Exhibit
- April**- Spring Vacation Week- Enrichment Programming classes for Children and Adolescents
- May**- Red, White and Blue Exhibit- in honor of our area's patriotic people past and present
- May**- Amsterdam HS Annual Art Show
- July-August**- Summer Enrichment Course Program
- July**- Annual Ice Cream Social and Craft Fair
- October**-Pumpkin Fest!

Board of Trustees

Our Board includes some new faces this year, which is exciting. Please consider joining our active board in the future. New faces are always welcome. The current board includes:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jacki Meola- President | Guy Cappucio- Treasurer |
| Rosemary Brzezicki | Mary Insogna |
| Amy Rossi | Vince Mautone |
| Diane Hale-Smith | George Steele |
| Joan Krohn | Patricia Leone |
| Susanne Dorr | Justine Schebel |
| Phyllis Levy | Margot Barnett |
| Richard DiMatteo | Rebecca Catena |

For more information please call 518.843.5151 or visit us online: www.walterelwoodmuseum.org

WALTER ELWOOD MUSEUM 2007 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Suggested Levels of Giving:

- Senior/Student \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Patron/Professional \$50.00
- Business \$100.00
- Corporate \$200.00
- Benefactor \$350.00
- Founder \$500.00
- WEM Circle of Friends \$1000.00 or more
* includes special invites & free tickets to all museum events for the year.
- Other

Name: _____

Other: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please charge my fund drive gift to my:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Express | <input type="checkbox"/> Discover |

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Please return this form with your gift by January 15th, 2008
Make checks payable to the:

WALTER ELWOOD MUSEUM

and mail to: 300 Guy Park Ave
Amsterdam, NY 12010

PLEASE CUT THIS MEMBERSHIP FORM OUT AND MAIL WITH YOUR PAYMENT TODAY!

