

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2015, Issue 247

Presbyterian Church, 2016 Calendar

A quintessential Columbus Day greeted the gathering on this October 12th: Ron Golden, Bette Welter, Orrin & Shirley Stevens, Christine Mickelsen, Walter and Donna Ingalls, Stephanie Ingalls, Rachel Ceasar and dad Rich Ceasar, Ron Golden, Al Hulick, Dave Tschinkel, Lori Blair, Sally Staunch, Kathy Smith, Ginny Mangold, Lew Knott, Phyllis Beechert, Barbara Walter, Mary Heisinger, Audrey Matott, Debra Start, and Don Teator. If anyone was missed, and you want to be recognized, let me know and amends will be made in the next newsletter.

Part A of the meeting was a presentation for the former **Presbyterian Church**. The Beautification Committee of Community Partners is leading the charge to renovate the church, both for structural integrity and for community use. The building has been fading into genteel decline the last several years and now, the committee feels, would be a key time to change course.

Don started with a fifteen minute show of old and current photos, as well as copies of documents that pertain to the church's history.

Ginny Mangold then described the building's history from closing to current day when it was bought by the Town of Greenville, re-named the Cultural Center and also All Arts Matter, and now faces a need to change.

From there, **Barbara Walter**, as the Beautification Committee rep, sought input from the audience. She and other members (Ginny is also on that committee) will be

talking to community groups and citizens about possible uses that would benefit the town as well as preserve one of our anchoring buildings.

You can help by giving input to the committee and, as we might expect when the time arrives, to give moral, physical, and financial support. More details will follow as events unfold.

You can gather more information from these two committees on their websites (addresses included):

—**Community Partners of Greenville:**
communitypartnersofgreenville.org (P.O. Box 252, Greenville NY, 12083)

—**Greenville Beautification Committee:**
gbcworks.com/news.html (P. O. Box 373, Greenville, NY 12083)

Part B of the meeting was the unveiling of the **2016 Local History Group Calendar**.

Don gave a brief history of the calendar, sources of photos, and ways the calendar has evolved over twenty-five years.

After a few minutes reading the inside back cover, Don invited **Mary Heisinger** forward to accept our best wishes and thank you for her service that is reflected in our choice of the 2016 GLHG recognition. Her list of accomplishments fills a full page of our calendar, and I think it a worthy exercise to find a calendar and to view the contributions Mary has made.

Then we thumbed through each month, noting a story or connection or fuller description, for each month. The pictures run the range of:

—Older (pre-WWII): North Street, Freehold; the Schubert Choral Club; an O’Hara Corners pose;

—Middling (1950s-1980s): giant snowbanks on Carelas’s Hill; a snowy Rt 32 entry into Greenville; a farm aerial on Plattekill Road; the Elsie Roe house;

—Recent (1990s-current): the Quackers; long-established realtors; the Irving house renovation; a Christmas season aura at the Westerner.

Work has already started on the 2017 Calendar.

A thank you goes to Stephanie, Christine, and Kathy for providing refreshments. Welcome, Kathy, to this much appreciated club!

I must put a plug in for **Community Partners**. The early form of the group was the Park Committee before it morphed into its current wider-reach view. Its mission statement defines itself as *“a non-profit organization committed to the protection, preservation and development of natural and historic resources of the Greenville area. Community Partners’ mission is in support of Greenville’s people.”* I urge you to support the efforts of Community Partners for the good work they have done, do, and will do with your support.

Congratulations to our **Episcopal Christ Church** for its inclusion into the National Register of Historic Sites.

The last newsletter urged you to nominate a person to be recognized by submitting a name, along with two or three reasons, why. The offer still stands. And, as an alternative, I am considering a page that would posthumously recognize, in abbreviated form, two or three community members who should be remembered for their contributions.

The **November meeting** will veer from its usual local historical theme and wander instead to a travelogue. Since more than ten votes came in, the November program will feature a slide show and talk by Don of his May 2015 **travels to Italy**, including Tuscan and Umbria, and points northward and westward.

Hilltop towns, food, wine, gelato, geography, and people will fill the evening’s agenda. Come to share your stories of Italy, if you have traveled there, or just come to vicariously share a journey to Italy.

For our online account, go to dteator.com, and then link to Italy 2015.

Calendars are available at Kelly’s, the Library, GNH, and Tops for \$9 a calendar. Please consider buying one, or two or more, to help defray the costs of publishing the calendar. It is satisfying producing a calendar; paying for it completes the cycle.

Calendars can be ordered by mail. Make a check to Don Teator (3979 Rt 67, Freehold, NY 12431). One for \$9, two for \$18, and then add \$7 for each additional calendar after the first two (\$25, \$32, etc.)

As for the 2017 calendar, if you know of a photograph, either in my possession, or in the hands of someone else, let me know and I will see that it gets consideration for a future calendar.

GCS Yearbooks: The collection is missing 1984, 1992, 1993. I will gladly accept a donation but am also willing to trade a 2016 calendar for one of those years.

Take care,

I think it fitting I include the Recognition piece for Mary Heisinger from the 2016 calendar, reproduced on the next page (pg 3).

Mary Kler Heisinger

The year was 1990.

After almost sixty years in New Brunswick, NJ, or Stamford, CT, or Windham, NY, recent arrivals Mary Heisinger and husband Bob settled into one of the new houses on one of Greenville's new roads, Turon Road.

And Greenville has benefitted ever since.

Mary was born in New Brunswick, NJ, in 1932, to Dr. Joseph H. Kler, MD and Elizabeth Vaughan Kler, graduated from Kent Place School (Summit, NJ), and then from University of Rhode Island with a BA in English, minor in History.

She married Walter R. (Bob) Heisinger in September, 1955, and lived in Stamford, CT, and raised their three children—Thomas, Edward, and Elizabeth.

Besides being a busy mother, Mary served on New Brunswick's East Jersey Olde Town, and, in the 1970s, was recognized for organizing Vision Screening for the State of Connecticut.

Ready for a career change, and Bob's family having a summer home in the Little Westkill area, the Heisingers left their CT home in 1974, moved to Windham, and operated the Prattville Hardware and Variety Store in Prattville, NY, until selling it in 1984. Mary, in her volunteering efforts, served as Vice President of the Pratt Museum Board of Directors in the 1980s, and was a committee member of the Community Church and Library Restoration in Windham.

With husband Bob serving as Greene County Coroner, it became convenient to move closer to area hospitals, and Greenville fortunately became the residence of the Heisingers.

The irrepressible Mary found projects to attract her time and energy—enjoying the small town character of Greenville while involving herself with the area's activities.

One of her first philanthropic efforts, Mary served as chairperson of the fund raising committee for the Greenville Library Expansion in the 1990s, a testament to the good will of the many people who helped promote the addition.

In addition, Mary has found time for these activities:

- *Current Library Trustee of the Greenville Library as well as the President of the Friends of the Library
- *Honored as the Trustee of the Year (November, 2003) by the Mid-Hudson Library System
- Served as Secretary of the Greenville Republican Club when husband Bob was president
- *Has served as a Board member of the Greene County Historical Society, and presently sits on the GCHS Historical House Register Committee as well as its Education Committee
- *Earlier in the 1980s, Mary worked for Cooperative Extension 4H and also was a Board Member, served as Chairperson of the Community Action of Greene County, and was also a member of the Head Start Board
- *Recognized in Feb 2011 by the NYS Assembly for her work in the community and library
- *Recognized in 1996 Greene County Legislature for almost ten years on the Board of Directors of the Community Action of Greene County.
- *Has been or is a member of several ancestry/heritage groups

Mary organized the Civil War Round Table, with monthly meetings commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Civil War events. The May 2013 program honored Ayres Barker, a Greenville soldier killed in the battle of Gettysburg.

In addition, she conducts two monthly reading discussion groups with Library sponsorship—the fiction group and the history group.

And she is a member of the Clematis Garden Club, serving as President in 2015.

Unfortunately, lifelong partner and husband Bob passed away in 2013.

Recreationally, Mary has served President of the Women's Golf League at the Windham Golf Country Club and, upon her arrival in Greenville, formed an 18-hole women's golf league at Thunderhart Country Club. And she enjoys bowling as a member of a woman's league in Ravena.

After a pause to catch our breaths at Mary's pace, the Greenville Local History Group is so pleased to recognize a person who jumped into Greenville's social fabric, openly and enthusiastically shared with others, and serves as one of Greenville's beloved good-will ambassadors and role models.

Mary Kler Heisinger, thank you for sharing these past twenty-five years with all of us.

Greenville Local History Group 2016 Calendar



The newest cover,
with twelve
worthy scenes
of Greenville
following;
plus our
recognition page

a narrow stone street
in Orvieto in Umbria
historic buildings
from Middle Ages
and before
an elderly woman
testing her mettle

More of this type
at November's meeting
A Trip to Italy

