



MORE THAN 25 EVENTS ARE COMING UP

OUR FIRST QUARTER HAS BEEN PACKED WITH EXPERIENCES SO FAR, AND MANY HAVE SOLD OUT. GOING FORWARD, WE ARE HOSTING UNIQUE EVENTS YOU'LL WANT TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR.



Frank Lloyd Wright expert and Stanford University Emeritus Professor Dr. Paul Turner will speak at the Jefferson Education Society at 7 p.m. on March 15. His topic is "Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco Office and the Story of its Remarkable Travels."

March 15, we collaborate with the Jefferson Education Society on a free event that hosts Frank Lloyd Wright expert, acclaimed architectural historian and Stanford University Emeritus Professor Dr. Paul Turner. He will speak at the JES at 7 p.m. on "Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco Office and the Story of its Remarkable Travels."

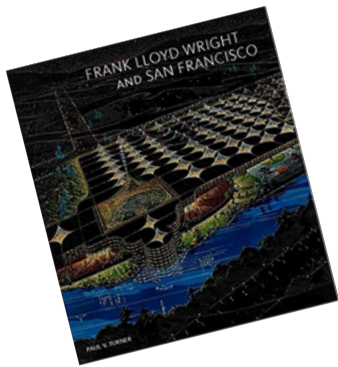
Dr. Turner will also speak on the same topic to a Pittsburgh audience the following night at 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Frick Fine Arts Building at the University of Pittsburgh.

Wright's San Francisco field office, established with his protégé, Aaron Green in 1951, traveled from its rented second-floor San Francisco building to Erie, Pennsylvania, via a 30-year journey that Turner will describe in detail.

Turner was trained as both an architect and an art historian. He's also an award-winning author who chaired a university committee that supervised the complicated process of restoring Frank Lloyd Wright's Hanna House on the Stanford campus. It had been damaged during an earthquake in 1989, and restoration was completed in 1999.

Turner then wrote a book "Frank Lloyd Wright and San Francisco," published in 2016. He also was involved in reconstruction of Wright's extensive library, which had largely been dispersed. This led to the creation of a website on the subject, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Library."

This is a rare opportunity to hear a Wright expert speak on his experiences. To participate in this free event at the Jefferson Education Society, register here: <https://bit.ly/3Zemj7i>



Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco office, at the Hagen History Center, will be the subject of a free lecture at the Jefferson Education Society.

SPRING ON THE EVENTS

Here are some of the upcoming events we're hosting. Please mark your calendar and keep an eye on our website for additions!

March 8, Canalside Readers book club meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Presidents Room for discussion of "History of the Standard Oil Company (1904, 2018)" by Ida Tarbell.

March 9, we will participate in a national Wright Virtual Visit from Frank Lloyd Wright's office on our campus at 1 p.m..
<https://savewright.org/wright-virtual-visits-2023/>

March 11, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Justin Dombrowski will discuss his current book **Erie's Backyard Strangler** and be available to sign books. He will also discuss **Murder and Mayhem**. Both books are available for purchase in the Carriage House Gift Shop.

March 12, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

March 18, from noon to 4 p.m., Canalside Readers will take a field trip to tour the Ida Tarbell House and Drake Well Museum in Titusville. Cost is \$15 for both museum admissions. For more information, email Sara Little Slittle@eriehistory.org.

March 20, at 5:30 p.m., Curtze Circle members will tour Erie Insurance's oldest corporate building, the "Heritage Center," as well as the newest office tower. Our tour will be led by Company Chairman Tom Hagen. Since its unveiling in 2015, the Heritage Center has only been opened once to the public. It is a stunning architectural gem that served as Erie Insurance's first company-owned building. Today, the Heritage Center serves as the company's corporate museum. Curtze members are donors of more than \$1,000 per year. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cal Pifer at cpifer@eriehistory.org.

March 31, we will participate in Gallery Night with the Erie Art Museum.

April 12, Canalside Readers book club meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Presidents Room.

April 16, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

April 16, 17 and 18, Spring cleanup takes place at the Battles farmhouses and grounds, 306 and 436 Walnut St., Girard. All volunteers are welcome.

April 19: Andrew Roth will host a Fireside Chat at 4:30 p.m. in the Watson-Curtze Mansion to discuss "Take Me Out to the Ball Game's Feminist Origins." It is free to members and \$10 for guests. Register <https://bit.ly/3XOeB2B>

May 6, Tour of Sacred Spaces, noon to 4 p.m. Tour Bishop Brock's Victory Education Center (St. John's Romanian Church), Luther Memorial Church, the Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity, St. Patrick's Church, St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Joseph's, St. Hedwig's and more. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.

May 10, Canalside Readers meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Presidents Room. Stay tuned for the book selection.

May 14, Happy Mother's Day! Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

May 14, Mother's Day Tea in the Mansion, \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Details coming soon.

May 17, Jerry Skrypzak will host a Fireside Chat at 4:30 p.m. in the Watson-Curtze Mansion to discuss "What's In a Name?" It is free to members and \$10 for guests. Check our website for registration information.

May 23, Volunteer picnic at Battles Farmhouses.



June 7, Men at the Museum at the Watson-Curtze Mansion. Join honorary chairperson Matt Clark for this cocktail party fundraiser for men with hors d'oeuvres and drinks from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Men under 40 years of age will pay their age. Tickets for all others are \$100 each.

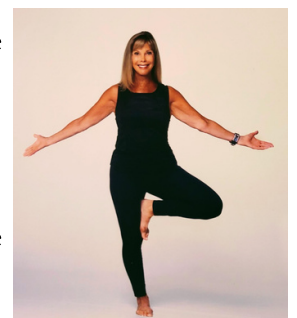
June 11, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

June 13, Women Creating A Legacy at the Watson-Curtze Mansion. Honorary chairpersons Barb Lechner, Abby Lechner and Leah Murphy invite you to the sixth annual event. This cocktail party fundraiser for women includes hors d'oeuvres and drinks from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Women under 40 years of age will pay their age. For all other women, tickets are \$100 each.

June 21, at noon, Yogilates with Michele Curtze at the Watson-Curtze Mansion, free will offering.

July 9, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

July 19, at noon, Yogilates with Michele Curtze at the Watson-Curtze Mansion, free will offering.



EVENTS CONTINUED

July 25, Battle of the Barristers Celebrity Bartending, 5 p.m. -8 p.m. at the Erie Yacht Club, 1 Ravine Drive.

August 10 to 13, Erie Society of Genealogical Research Collaboration Open House, tours and August 12 American Ancestors genealogy seminar.

August 13, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

August 16, at noon, Yogilates with Michele Curtze at the Watson-Curtze Mansion, free will offering

September 10, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

September 16, A Night at the Museum Gala (see page 4 for details)

October 8, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

November 12, Community Free Day from noon to 5 p.m.

November 30-December 3 Victorian Holidays, free admission to the completely decorated campus.

WE'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE THIS YEAR

So far in 2023, we've scheduled and sold out many of our events. For example, **Dinner Under the Stars** sold out in 7 days and the **Club and Pub Tour** sold out in 4 days.

Canalside Readers, our successful book club, met four times since it started in the fall (the second Wednesday of every month) and anywhere from 16 to 40 people have been involved. Reserve your spot and get more info from Sara Little slittle@eriehistory.org.

Executive Director Cal Pifer was interviewed for Community Gems on Erie News Now, which aired on Feb. 17. You can watch it <https://bit.ly/3m25i1y> and he was Lisa Adams' featured guest on The Insider on Erie News Now. It aired on February 18 and 19 on WICU and WSEE. View it here: <https://www.erienewsnow.com/clip/15375625/hagen-history-center-the-insider>

He was also interviewed in the Erie Times-News <https://bit.ly/3IOSTXK>.

On February 12, our team engaged with brides at the iHeart Radio Wedding Expo at the Bayfront Convention Center. Nearly a dozen brides have scheduled tours of our Erie and Girard campuses for upcoming weddings.

Lake Erie Living wrote a full-page story on us for their Annual Tourism Guide.

Read it <https://lakeerieliving.com/articles/2023-travel-guide/hands-on-history>.

To keep up with all our media attention, visit our website's In the News section <https://www.eriehistory.org/about/in-the-news/>



More than 70 patrons visited the Nuova Aurora on our Club and Pub Tour.



Cal Pifer and our staff have been interviewed 8 times so far this year.



Our Girard properties have been included in video news segments this year and were selected as a "Community Gem" on Erie News Now.



Lake Erie Living posted a great story on our campus in their annual tourism guide.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HONOR GOV. TOM AND MICHELE RIDGE

We are pleased to announce that we will honor former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge and First Lady Michele Ridge at A Night at the Museum Sept. 16, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Michele Ridge is the former executive director of the Erie County Library System and a former board member and board chair for the Erie County Historical Society.

Homer and Marlene Mosco will serve as the honorary chair couple for this event. It is the third year this signature fundraiser will be held for the museum.

The evening includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar, live music and dancing at the Hagen History Center, 356 West 6th Street.

Multiple sponsorship packages are available, and individual tickets are \$125 per person. View sponsorship levels <https://www.eriehistory.org/assets/Gala-Sponsor-Levels-23.pdf>



Photo courtesy of Mercyhurst University

For more information, please contact Geri Cicchetti at 814-454-1813 x 34 or gicchetti@eriehistory.org.

Knox Law praises Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC)

Submitted by Knox Law

Knox Law acknowledges the important work done by nonprofit organizations in our region. We applaud their efforts and are pleased to provide our support, professional resources, and volunteer service.

Part of this support includes our participation in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, which we have participated in for the last 9 years.

Through this program, our firm receives tax credits for contributing to Educational Improvement Organizations, as pre-approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). No one can deny the power of education for our youth, and we are pleased to fund organizations that educate different audiences in the arts, nature, STEM, career exploration, and more.



Tom Tupitza, President; Sarah Holland, Marketing Director; and Tara Mobley, CEO

 **KnoxLaw**

Boosting all of these areas serves everyone in our community by empowering our youth and providing a sound foundation for future learning and achievement.

Specifically, we commend the Hagen History Center's programs for student field trips and video production.

Students who experience history outside of the classroom are more likely to embrace and learn from it, which is important to how they see their present and future. We recognize and support the History Center's role in engaging and inspiring our community to appreciate and treasure our collective history and heritage.

For more information on this program, please contact Geri Cicchetti at 814-454-1813 x 34 or gicchetti@eriehistory.org.

NEW EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS

Boe Bladen and Story of Us featured in Erie Reader



The story of Boe Bladen and early African American settlers is among the stories on exhibit in the Story of Us .

The Story of Us has received excellent reviews from all who visited, including Erin Phillips, editor of Erie Reader. She wrote about Boe Bladen, Erie's first Black resident in an article Feb. 15. She wrote:

"I tried hard to get to the truth of what happened to him and I hope I did his story justice.

Thank you to Erie County Historical Society-Hagen History Center for all of your help, and be sure to check out their newest exhibit "The Story of Us" which features Boe Bladen (along with all of the immigration stories of Erie - voluntary or otherwise)."

You can read the story [here](#).

In the Story of Us, almost everyone recognizes something or someone in the 3,000-square-foot exhibit that includes hundreds of photos and artifacts that trace the history of families, businesses, ethnic groups, churches and clubs that were all part of Erie's history.

We've also enhanced our ability to tell the story of more recent immigration and reach students in the Erie School District with a professionally created video by Menajerie that will premiere on March 31 at 1 p.m. at Julius, in the former Maennerchor.

In case you missed it

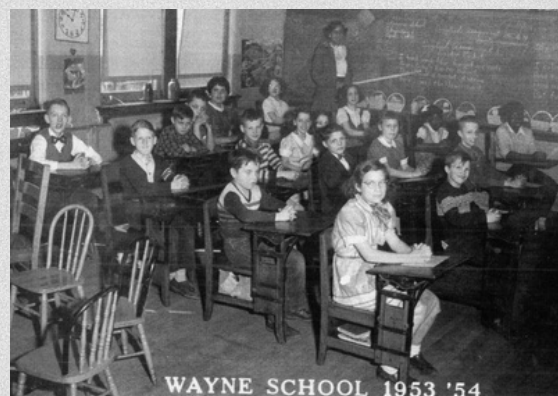
The Erie School District announced that all 200 Iverd paintings will become part of our collection as a permanent loan.

Read the story <https://bit.ly/3kravzK>. Erie teacher George Ericson, who painted under the name Eugene Iverd, was famous for Saturday Evening Post covers that used Erie children as models.



The Hagen History Center will provide free admission to Erie School District students with a student ID. The exhibit will appear in late 2023 or early 2024.

COMING SOON:



Ada Lawrence-Johnny Johnson Collection moves to Hagen History Center

Ada Lawrence was the first black person hired as a full-time teacher by the Erie School District on Sept. 3, 1946, and she taught at Wayne Elementary.

Her story is a wonderful recollection of Harry T. Burleigh visits to her home and activities in the community. Ada, a beloved teacher, was one of the founding members of the Poissettes Bowling Club. She died in 2014 at the age of 93.

The collection was recently moved from the Erie County Public Library to the History Center with the help of Johnny Johnson and the Burleigh Legacy Alliance.

Our archivists are involved in cataloging the collection, and it will open to the public at a later date.

BE OUR GUEST ... FOR WEDDINGS, EVENTS OR OVERNIGHT STAYS IN GIRARD



Events will be popping up at the Battles farmhouses in Girard. The Battles Yellow House, 436 Walnut St., and the Battles White House, 306 Walnut St., are getting a lot of attention as we market the 120-acre site as a wedding and event venue.

Girard offers rental opportunities

With the popularity of farm and rural weddings and events, the Battles properties are getting attention. Abbey Amy and her husband had one of the largest weddings at the Yellow House a few years ago, and she wrote this about her event:

"When we first started looking at wedding venues, we knew we wanted something that spoke to both of us. My husband grew up in the country, and I wanted the elegance of a historic venue, but also was into a more rustic look as well, and that's what the Yellow House was to us. The minute I saw the expansive yard and the breathtaking views, I knew we had found the right place! The house was the perfect area for my husband and his groomsmen to get ready in, and offered the perfect spot for photos, dancing, and making memories. Our wedding guests still talk about how beautiful the day was, between the venue, the food, and the weather. Planning a wedding can be super stressful, but everyone involved in the planning made everything relaxed, and the day went off without a hitch!"

Looking for event space? Contact Kelly Bucci at events@eriehistory.org or 814-860-1450.

You can stay overnight in the Yellow House

The second floor of the Battles Yellow House is available for [Airbnb](#) bookings and was booked weekends and weeks from May through November in 2022.

The home was built in 1857, and the apartment features a two-bedroom space with a fully equipped kitchen and incredible views of 120 acres of scenic, country property.

To book your stay, visit <https://bit.ly/3Z0Uboh>. It's available for \$122 per night March through November.



The apartment on the second floor of the Girard Yellow House is on Airbnb for \$122 per night with weekly and monthly discounts available.

Please share your green thumb with us!



The gardens on the Battles Farm properties in Girard, will soon be in bloom again. If you haven't seen them yet, you're in for a surprise this year. We're expanding!

We're looking for helpers to tend to our gardens in Girard, and this year, for the first time ever, we'll be planting some new gardens.

On April 16, 17 and 18, we'll be hosting a clean-up day at the Battles properties, both the Yellow House, 436 Walnut St., and White House, 306 Walnut St.

Our Volunteer Party will take place May 24 at the Battles properties, where you'll see a lot of updates.

We have plenty of ideas in the works for 2023. We hope you'll be a part of it. Make sure to check our [website](#) for updates.

Please contact Pam Parker pparker@eriehistory.org if you would like to join our gardeners.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MANSION AND CARRIAGE HOUSE

Watson-Curtze Mansion reopens March 1

We closed the mansion for a month of TLC, and when you visit, you'll see resurfaced wood and tile floors, sparkling ceilings and lighting fixtures and an updated catering kitchen. Everything is polished and shining. Behind the scenes, plumbing was updated so that our extraordinary mansion can welcome our guests.



Carriage House Gift Shop is a shopper's paradise

Need a unique gift for someone who has everything? Maybe a cool book, wild socks or home decor items? Our Operations Team Leader Sara Little manages the Carriage House Gift Shop, and she has established quite a track record since the campus reopened in 2021.

"We had record sales, and we want to thank all of our shoppers. Without all of you we wouldn't be able to offer such a variety of cute things," she said. "Keep us in mind when you need to pick up unique gifts for the spring holidays and birthdays."

If you haven't seen the shop lately, you'll want to visit soon. Custom, localized souvenirs, historic city and nautical maps, scarves with stained-glass-inspired designs and so much more will be on the shelves.

So what's the top seller? Frank Lloyd Wright socks and art glass are fast movers and always being replenished.

And, the shop maintains a full complement of books by local authors along with games, jewelry, clothing and more. You can purchase items for \$1 on up.



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THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Barb Felix is one of our many dedicated volunteers who helps us on student and adult tours.

A mom and grandmother, she has also helped to decorate for Victorian Holidays and many other events.

If you'd like to become a volunteer, please contact Jeff Sherry at 814-454-1813 ext. 33.

Is a wedding or party in your future?

We have the perfect space for any size event, and you'll receive all the planning help you need regarding our Erie and Girard venues.

Our Special Event Coordinator Kelly Bucci can help you plan your event for anything from 40 to 50 people to more than 300!

Contact Kelly at events@eriehistory.org or 814-860-1450.



Please visit us! Hagen History Center Hours:

We are open year round
Tuesday through Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon to 5 p.m.
Monday: Closed

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We have an immediate need for volunteers with basic computer skills to help expand our archive's digital collection. Please sign up online:
www.eriehistory.org/get-involved/volunteer/

