



THOMAS B. HAGEN HISTORY CENTER HAPPENINGS

Exploring Local
History Since 1903

SAVE-THE-DATES

March 14-May 5

Local Red Cross Exhibit opening.

Open Thursdays-Saturdays 11am-5pm in the ballroom at the Watson-Curtze Mansion.

This exhibit will remain open until May 5.

April 11

ECHS Curator Becky Weiser will speak on *“Rediscovering Erie’s History—the process of deaccessioning used by the ECHS and how to care for the artifacts that are kept.”*

7pm at the Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 West 6th Street

April 24

Public Meeting with PRD to discuss exhibit designs.

7:30pm at the Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street

May 12

The Miss Winifred Watson Mother’s Day Tea

Will be held from 2pm-4pm at the Watson-Curtze Mansion. Guests encouraged to bring a photo of mom, grandma, or a special woman in their lives to display during the tea on our mantle in celebration. \$25 per person. Contact Karen Dodson to RSVP at (814) 454-1813 x 32.

May 22

Local Genealogist Claire Varrieur will speak on *“Military Repatriation: Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise.”*

7pm at the Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 West 6th Street

For additional information on these events and others, you can receive Constant Contact emails from ECHS by sending your email address to Karen at kdodson@eriehistory.org.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Ground Breaking for the New Exhibit Building at the Thomas B. Hagen History Center

With turns of shovels on Friday, March 1, 2019, the newest project on the Hagen History Center campus began.

A new 6,000-square-foot exhibit building will be located directly behind the Education Center. The Education Center is in the Wood-Morrison House, 338 West 6th Street.

The first floor of the new exhibit building will feature two galleries, including an exhibit of national significance. The second floor will feature a comprehensive exhibit on the history of Erie County.

The building should take about 12 months to construct. The first exhibit should be installed within 6 months after that.

ECHS has hired a professional exhibit designer to ensure the exhibits are vibrant, interactive and engaging. This is a major development for the Hagen History Center campus, and the exhibits will be a great draw for Erie residents and tourists alike.



Breaking Ground are ECHS Curator Becky Weiser, Erie County Director of Administration Gary Lee, ECHS Executive Director George Deutsch, Thomas B. Hagen, Mayor Joe Schember and Board Members Bruce Kern and Randy Shapira (President).



New exhibit building planned on the campus of the Hagen History Center.



On hand for the Ribbon Cutting at the Wood-Morrison House are ECHS Events Coordinator Karen Dobson, Museum Educator Jeff Sherry, Mayor Joe Schember, Thomas B. Hagen, ECHS Executive Director George Deutsch, previous owner Atty. George Schroeck, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper.

ECHS Opens Education Center in Wood-Morrison House

After 10 months of restoration, a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, announced the opening of the ECHS Education Center.

The Wood-Morrison House, which was built in 1858, underwent extensive renovations to the main house. An addition was added to the back of the house to include an elevator for handicapped accessibility.

The Education Center will have exhibits on the first floor and classrooms on the second floor.

The first floor will feature exhibits on Dr. William Wood, first Surgeon General of the Navy; Captain William Morrison, last Captain of the Michigan/Wolverine and the first Superintendent of Presque Isle State Park; and the Erie Extension Canal.

The second floor will offer 3 classrooms for educational opportunities for school children and teacher training. The Hagen History Center is the flagship property of the Erie County Historical Society. This site includes the Watson-Curtze Mansion and Museum; the Carriage House Visitors’ Center with the King-Mertens Archive Building; and now the Education Center in the Wood-Morrison House.



ECHS Displays an Exhibit of the Local Chapter of the American Red Cross



ECHS volunteer curatorial assistant Bob O'Rear places a WWI Red Cross nurse's cape on Pamela Masi, Executive Director of the Red Cross of NW PA.

The American Red Cross of Northwestern PA has been "Helping Save Lives Since 1917".

To celebrate National Red Cross Month in March, the Erie County Historical Society is featuring an exhibit in the ballroom of the Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 West 6th Street. The exhibit opened March 14 and will run through May 5, 2019.

On the opening weekend of the exhibit, Saturday, March 16, and Sunday, March 17, from 11am-4pm, the "Doughnut Dollies" were featured.

"American service men in England during World War II called American Red Cross girls 'Doughnut Dollies. It was a warm and affectionate term designed to show the soldiers'

appreciation for the morale-building efforts of the American Red Cross." (Helen Airy) The Red Cross girls got their name as they served doughnuts to the GIs. The ECHS featured women in Doughnut Dollie attire serving doughnuts to visitors.

This exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Erie County Historical Society and the local chapter of the American Red Cross. ECHS is happy to be donating a portion of all ticket sales to the local chapter of the Red Cross.

The exhibit is sponsored by Erie Federal Credit Union. After the opening weekend, Adult ticket prices are \$10, Seniors \$7.50 and Students \$5; Free admission for members.

ECHS Announces Spring Speaker Series

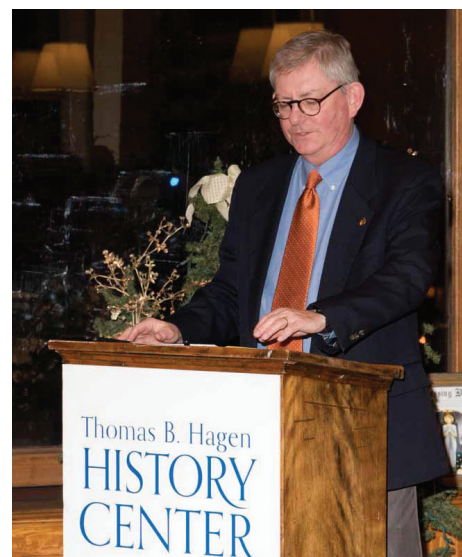
Mark your calendars for the ECHS spring Speaker Series.

On Wednesday, March 20, local architect Jeff Kidder spoke on "The past and future of the historic Wood-Morrison House—from Home, Art Center, Office to Education Center." This talk explored the history of the home which has undergone 10 months of renovations and is now the ECHS Education Center. This talk featured a tour of the Wood-Morrison House, 338 West 6th Street.

On Thursday, April 11, ECHS Curator Becky Weiser will speak on "Rediscovering Erie's History-the process of deaccession used by the ECHS and how to care for the artifacts that are

kept." This talk will cover the procedures and ethics involved removing artifacts from the collection. This talk will be held at the Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 West 6th Street, at 7pm.

On Wednesday, May 22, local genealogist Claire Varrieur will speak on "Military Repatriation: Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise." She will talk about her work assisting the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in locating next-of-kin and other family DNA donors as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to bring home the remains of service members lost in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. This talk will be held at the Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 West 6th Street, at 7pm



Museum Educator Jeff Sherry was a speaker for the ECHS in the fall of 2018.

From the Carriage House By George E. Deutsch, Executive Director

WELCOME to our newly formatted newsletter. What a time of great change at ECHS! Inside you will be able to read about all the exciting details.

Thank you for helping to make all this happen. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization with folks like you giving contributions of talent and helping to financially support our staff and facilities. When you receive your renewal

letter, or if you were recently notified that your old membership had lapsed, please strongly consider remaining part of our family.

On page 3 you will see the announcement that we hired a team of outstanding exhibit design professionals to guide us through our next major project, the creation of a comprehensive, campus-wide plan to exhibit the story of the Erie region. We want you to be a part of the

process, so please plan to join us on April 24.

I hope to see you soon at many of our expanding events and activities: the Public Hearing, our ongoing speakers series, the Mother's Day Tea, multiple neighborhood public events and the Annual Meeting at 6:00pm on July 10.

Also, please follow us on our newly revitalized social media – Facebook, Instagram and Constant Contact.

Penn State Behrend Students Market ECHS

Behrend students in Dr. Mary Beth Barber Pinto's Marketing Class are learning their Erie History!

Beginning in January 2019, students in Marketing 444 began learning about the ECHS, including programing, events, and historic buildings. The study of the ECHS is part of their research in writing marketing plans as part of a 4-or-5-member team.

Forty-eight students, in 10 groups, will do marketing plans for the ECHS, complete with

interviews, focus groups, surveys of people aged 18-30, and research what other museums offer. Their goal is to offer ECHS insights on the interests of this age group and how ECHS could attract them to become members, attend events, and get involved.

Early in the semester, the students toured the Watson-Curtze Mansion, the Wood-Morrison House, the Carriage House and Archives. Both Executive Director George Deutsch and Director of Advancement Geri Cicchetti have

met with the students at Behrend to answer questions and share the vision for the Hagen History Center campus.

This course is structured as a competition to see which team of students can prepare the best marketing plan. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

ECHS board members and staff look forward to Behrend's Finals Week when the students will verbally present their findings and submit their written reports.

Welcome to New ECHS Employee Karen Dodson

Events Coordinator Karen Dodson joined the staff of ECHS in January, 2019.

Working in non-profit business for three decades, Karen has a diverse professional background and specializes in events and museum services. Having worked on staff of the Erie Art Museum, The Boys and Girls

Club of Erie, and serving on the board of the Performing Arts Collective Alliance, Karen has deep roots in the Erie community. With over 20 years of event planning experience, we look forward to Karen bringing her expertise to all ECHS events both large and small.



The Barristers Battled and ECHS Won

Room 33 was a busy spot on Thursday, February 21, with the Battle of the Barristers for the Erie County Historical Society.

This celebrity bartending event pitted local lawyers against each other in a friendly competition to raise the most donations for ECHS.

Bartending celebrities included ECHS Board President Randy Shapira, Ed Smith, Mayor Joe

Sinnott, Erin Connelly, Beth Hirz, Jack Quinn, Pete Sala, Rebeka Seelinger, Grant Yochim, Bill Helbling, Matt Lager, Eric Purchase and Craig Murphey. Because of their generosity, the generosity of those in attendance, and the generosity of Room 33, ECHS raised \$2,700 during this 3-hour event.

Several bartenders raised over \$200 each. And the law team of Eric Purchase and Craig Murphey won bragging rights for one year

with their total of \$433.50 raised. This was the highest total raised by one law firm.

Vickie Lampe won the set of WeatherTech front and back floor mats which were donated by Fabin's Trailer and Truck Accessories. Diane Morosky won the 50/50, and she generously donated her winnings back to ECHS.

A big thank you to our many donors and sponsors of this event.

Professional Exhibit Design Firm and Public Meeting Announcement

After a broad search, your ECHS staff has chosen the PRD Group of Chantilly, Virginia, to help lead the exciting process of creating a comprehensive campus-wide exhibit design.

Founded in 1988, PRD will help ECHS "create intellectually engaging and entertaining experiences that combine storytelling and education." (PRD website)

Among their clients, PRD has "designed a presidential library, a world's fair pavilion,

several interactive learning centers, exhibits for state and regional museums, major city museums, for the National Park Service, Library of Congress, and for several units of the Smithsonian Institution."

Exhibits will be created not only in our new 6000 sq. foot exhibit building, but also in the Wood-Morrison House, with upgrades in the Watson-Curtze Mansion, and upgrades to a portion of the Archives building for traveling exhibits from other institutions.

The process will begin with a public meeting with our members and interested members of the community. We want your input on our future. What would you like to see in the new exhibit spaces?

Together with the PRD team, we want to meet with you on Wednesday, April 24, at 7:30pm. Our friends at the Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street, have generously offered us space to hold our discussion with the community. We encourage you to attend.

Erie County Historical Society

356 West 6th Street

Erie PA 16507

(814) 454-1813

www.eriehistory.org

ECHS Staff

George Deutsch,
Executive Director x 25

Annita Andrick x 26

Jim Barr x 22

Geri Cicchetti x 34

Karen Dodson x 32

Jeanne Kidder x 23

Dave Pugh x 24

Jeff Sherry x 33

Pauline Stanton x 28

Rebecca Weiser x 21

Erie Society of Genealogical
Research (ESGR) x 29

Winter Hours

Thursdays-Saturdays
11am-5pm.

Last tour of the day starts at 4pm.

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Annual Award Nominations

Do you know a person or organization who's been keeping Erie's history alive and should be recognized for their hard work?

Recommend them to the Erie County Historical Society for the annual Preservation Awards. Submit an essay (up to 250 words) on why you believe your nominee deserves one of the following awards:

- 1. Preservation Stewardship:** Long term care of a property which has been sensitive to the historic character and fabric of a significant historic or architectural resource.
- 2. Construction:** Recent restoration or substantial rehabilitation of a significant historic or architectural resource.
- 3. Enhancement Projects:** Historically appropriate use of colors, signs, awnings, or other exterior amenities which are sensitive to the historic character and fabric of the building; restoration and rehabilitation of individual exterior elements in a manner sensitive to the historic character and fabric of the building.
- 4. Preservation Initiative:** Non-construction activity, service, or commitment promoting historic preservation including government support, media coverage, corporate leadership, publications, education programs, and individual achievement.
- 5. Local History**
- 6. Media**
- 7. Volunteer of the Year**

Send all nominations to Executive Director George Deutsch at either gdeutsch@eriehistory.org or George Deutsch, ECHS, 356 West 6th Street, Erie PA 16507. Deadline is June 14, 2019.