

Dear friends,

We want to thank you!

We are closing out another busy, record-breaking season at the History Center. For the last three years, we have seen our highest visitation levels during the summer season. In addition, several of our signature events continue to grow. For example, we saw our largest crowd ever for the popular West 6th Street Walking Tour when over 400 of you were able to get an inside glimpse into the beautifully restored properties along West 6th Street.

Further, we offered a West County Bike Tour and intimate Farm to Table Dinner to sell-out audiences.

Our gala drew over 550 individuals for another picture-perfect evening, and raised much needed funds for our organization.

One of our biggest success stories is the Great Key Hunt that recently concluded. In partnership with Erie News Now WSEE-TV and WICU-TV, with prize money provided by the Erie Federal Credit Union, our internal metrics indicate that at least 2,000 individuals participated in all eight weeks of this unique, historically-themed, scavenger hunt around Erie County.

As we look toward the end of the year and the start of 2025, we are busy planning the rollout of a new concept. Through the generous underwriting of HBKS Wealth, we are going to offer the entire first quarter of the year, "Pay What You Wish" to all Erie County residents.

If someone can only afford a dollar or even less, that's OK. They'll have full access to the entire museum.

Non-Erie County residents will continue to pay our full admission price. We are offering this opportunity as a pilot program to stimulate local visitation. Other museums around the country have seen significant visitor upticks when they have offered something similar.

If we experience similar numbers, we will offer this opportunity annually every first quarter of the year.

Until we see each other at the next event, I wish to thank you again for your ongoing interest and support of the History Center.

FALL 2024



**Pay What You Wish
for admission**

for Erie County residents only

Jan. 1 to March 31, 2025

Thanks to



Accessibility for all



Caleb M. Pifer

Caleb M. Pifer
Executive Director

Coming in December!



Victorian Holidays

Our entire Erie campus will be decorated for Victorian Holidays:

Hours: Friday, Dec. 6: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8: Noon to 5 p.m.

Choruses and other musical groups will entertain all three days and Santa will make a stop on Sunday.

Decorations will remain until January 6.

HALF-PRICE TICKETS

Thanks to our sponsor Erie Federal Credit Union:

Hagen History members and

Erie Federal Credit Union members.....\$5.00

Adults.....\$6.00

Students.....\$3.25

Veterans.....\$5.00

Children 6 & Under.....FREE

Museums for All.....\$3.00 each (EBT card holders, up to 4 people per card)

Coming in 2025



Battles White House shines

We are just wrapping up our massive exterior renovation of Charlotte Battles' White House at 306 Walnut St. in Girard. It has been getting plenty of love recently with new paint, windows, a restored front porch, repointed brick and chimneys and much more.

This is in addition to all the upgrades we made last year with refurbished patios, stairs and walkways plus an interior bathroom renovation.

We'll be showing it off during our 2025 Annual Member Picnic & Meeting on July 15. We plan to host several events specifically for the White House. Stay tuned!

Sunflower plans for 2025

Our sunflower fields in Girard garnered incredible attention in 2024, and next year's plan will include planting more sunflowers with the addition of numerous picnics and events.

Look for more sunflower picnics and related events in 2025.



Event Schedule 2024 / 2025

Some events, like our Sunflower Picnics, for example, are dependent on Mother Nature. We don't have exact dates for everything, so please visit our website for updates and details on each event.

www.eriehistory.org/events

NOVEMBER 2024

- Zoo exhibit opens on third floor
- Decorating for Victorian Holidays begins

DECEMBER 2024

- Dec. 3** Wassail cooking class at the Yellow House in Girard with Full Circle Winery
- Dec. 6 to 8** Victorian Holidays (see page 2 for details)

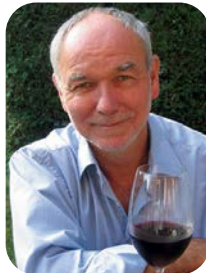
JANUARY 2025

- Jan. 1 to March 31** "Pay What You Wish" first quarter for Erie County residents
- Jan. 31** Eugene Iverd birthday celebration

FEBRUARY 2025

February 5 Doris Becker Lecture series at the Jefferson Educational Society:

Rod Phillips, a wine historian and author from Canada will discuss how the wine industry started in North America along with highlights of our local wine region. Wine sampling included. *This event is free thanks to Mark Becker, who underwrites the series in honor of his late mother Doris Becker.*



MARCH 2025

- March 4** Yellow House cooking class maple syrup
- TBD** Polish history exhibit opens

APRIL 2025

- April 1** Yellow House cooking class

MAY 2025

- May 6** Yellow House cooking class
- TBD** Bicycle tour

JUNE 2025

- June 2** Yellow House cooking class
- June 10** Women Creating A Legacy
- June 18** Men at the Museum
- June 23 to 27** Kids architecture camp: (Grades 6-8), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

JULY 2025

- Welcome Exhibit/Frank Lloyd Wright exhibit called a "Museum within a Museum" will open at the Erie campus
- July 1** Yellow House cooking class
- July 15** White House reopening and annual meeting
- TBD** Farmers markets
- TBD** Sunflower days/picnics

AUGUST 2025

- Aug. 1 to 3** Dan Rice Days
- Aug. 5** Yellow House cooking class
- TBD** Home Tour in Erie

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Sept. 2** Yellow House cooking class
- Sept. 13** Tom Hagen's 90th Birthday Bash
- TBD** Bicycle tour (Edinboro)

OCTOBER 2025

- New exhibits open in Erie
- Oct. 7** Yellow House cooking class

NOVEMBER 2025

- Nov. 4** Yellow House cooking class

DECEMBER 2025

- Dec. 2** Yellow House cooking class
- Dec. 5 to 7** Watson-Curtze Mansion Victorian Holidays

Planned gifts secure the future

We are very grateful for our annual donors. They support our operational budget in the present. We are also very grateful for our planned giving donors, who secure our future.

Planned gifts are a way to ensure the organization continues in perpetuity. Once their family's needs are secured, donors might wish to include the History Center in their estate plans.

This helps the organization with growth and enhanced programming. There can also be tax benefits to the donor.

One planned giving donor is Bill Steger. Here's his story:



By Bill Steger and his wife Ruthanne Beighley

I choose to support the Hagen History Center for several reasons:

First, from my early childhood, I have had a love of history. I still recall my first visit to the Erie Museum in 1953 when I was in the 4th grade.

Second, I also recall my parents taking our family trip to Gettysburg in the mid-1950s where I first learned about the Civil War and the roles of the Erie County infantry regiments who fought there.

Third, several years ago I was invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hagen History Center, which I proudly did for six years. This service firmly established in me our need to preserve and display our many artifacts as well as to educate the citizens of Erie County about our rich history.

Lastly, in addition to making annual gifts to the museum, I made the choice to be a "planned giving donor" by designating a portion of my IRA to be donated to the HHC upon my death. This decision will help ensure the future sustainability of the History Center. And this is perhaps the most important reason for my decision!

Please consider remembering the History Center in your estate plans. You can choose to include the History Center in your will, in a trust and/or as the beneficiary of an insurance policy. This type of donation often provides transformational growth for the organization.

If you'd like to discuss any of the above options further, contact Geri Cicchetti, Advancement Director at 814-454-1813 x34 or at gcicchetti@eriehistory.org



Year-end giving ideas IRAs/Qualified Charitable distributions

Did you know you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 total to one or more nonprofits directly from a taxable IRA?

If you have an Individual Retirement Account, you are required to take minimum distributions by age 73.

If you are age 70½ years old or older, you can donate instead of taking a required minimum distribution.

Advantages include:

- Donors may avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets
- QCDs are also called IRA charitable distributions or IRA charitable rollovers. These allow individuals to fulfill their required minimum distribution by a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 to a nonprofit.
- QCDs don't increase taxable income, both higher tax rates and phaseouts can be avoided.

QCDs reduce the balance of the IRA and may reduce required minimum distributions in future years.

The money is a direct transfer to a nonprofit. Your IRA custodian can handle an electronic transfer or a check directly to the nonprofit.

Deadline is Dec. 31 of the tax year in question. An individual can contribute up to \$100,000 per year. For married couples, each spouse can donate up to \$100,000 limit for a potential total of \$200,000.

You can make one large contribution or several smaller contributions over the course of the calendar year.

NOTE: Other rules, including state tax rules apply. You should consult a tax advisor and/or financial advisor to determine the appropriate strategy for your individual finances.

What does it cost to preserve our properties?

With five historic buildings, over 15,000 individual objects and 1.8 miles of archives, it costs a small fortune to preserve Erie's incredible past. Please help us perpetuate and preserve our collective history.



\$50

COVERS ONE GALLON OF PAINT (WE AVERAGE OVER 40 PER YEAR).



\$100

COVERS ONE PAIL OF WOODEN FLOOR PROTECTANT (WE AVERAGE 30 PER YEAR).



\$2,500

COVERS ONE MONTH'S ELECTRIC BILL



\$5,000

COVERS ONE MONTH'S INSURANCE BILL

Please help us during the Hagen History Center Annual Fund Appeal by making a one-time gift or a monthly gift. Please visit www.erichistory.org/donate

What's happening in education?



What a great start to the school year we are having here at the Hagen History Center! We wrapped up the exciting Great Key Hunt contest with a bang, nearly 200 people were on site looking for the final key after it was placed.

I was very impressed with how well the key hunters knew their local history. Although there could only be one winner (not really, a family of 4 won it) you are all winners in my book with the knowledge and perseverance that you all showed.

I conducted my first in-service at the center to get the word out to the local teachers of all that we offer. The students have started their yearly visits to the museum, and we are busy teaching them all we know about history. We are working on some exciting things for the future in the education department, so stay tuned for announcements on upcoming curriculum for students of all ages.

-Adam Macrino

New exhibit now open



Thanks to Scott Mitchell from the Erie Zoo and to JET/FOX/YourErie for sharing our NEW "100 Years of Erie Zoo" on the third floor of the Watson-Curtze Mansion.

If you remember the Erie Zoo, the ice rink, all the animals, uniforms and much more, you will LOVE this new exhibit.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/45ty7er7> for a look at the live interview.

We have the gifts



you want to give!

Carve your name in brick!



Tilly Carmosino's humans have a commemorative brick in our patio memorializing their wedding date. You can give a gift of a brick for family, friends or yourselves! We will engrave it and install it on our Carriage House patio when the weather cooperates. Visit eriehistory.org/support/buy-a-brick to purchase a brick with 3 lines of type for \$100.

Give the gift of a membership for as little as \$20



Have a history lover in your family? Make sure they can visit us at any time for free!

Memberships offer multiple benefits, and for a limited time, you can buy one and get one 50% off! For details visit our website www.eriehistory.org/get-involved/holiday-membership-special

Give the gift of a house history

Would you like to learn more about your home or that of a loved one? You can do the research on your own during a research appointment with us, or check out our new Historic Property and Land Research Program, available from our Library and Archives. We do the research for you, and it starts at \$250.

Contact us at info@eriehistory.org.



Let us host your holiday event



The Watson-Curtze Mansion Staff Photo

We've hosted more than 20 weddings/celebrations this year, and we have 23 more already in the books for 2025, plus a few more in 2026!

Thinking about a holiday party? Wedding? Family reunions? We have your venue AND we have plenty of dates available in three different spaces at our Erie and Girard venues.

Enjoy Victorian elegance at the History Center's West Sixth Street campus. Or have a **fabulous farm wedding or event** in Girard at our Yellow House that sits on more than 120 acres of bucolic scenery.

We've also had small ceremonies, meetings, parties and more in the **President's Room**.

Bookings start at \$500.



The Yellow House in Girard Staff photo (left) Jessica Hunter photo (right)

Visit our wedding site at erieweddings.net. To view pictures and find more information, hover over the QR code.

For a private tour, contact Caleb Pifer at events@eriehistory.org



The President's Room Staff photo

Have you visited our Carriage House Gift Shop?

If you haven't purchased anything from our gift shop yet, now's the time!

We have a full complement of books by local authors along with games, jewelry, clothing and more. Erie-themed and holiday-themed items are always available. Get your Frank Lloyd Wright socks and home decor items, too!



HAGEN HISTORY CENTER

356 W. 6th St.
Erie, PA 16507
www.eriehistory.org
814-454-1813

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 433

And the winners are:



Our Great Key Hunt winning family spent some time with us and received their check in the Watson-Curtze Mansion parlor. From left are: Quizmaster Adam Macrino with winners: Gary Peterson; his sister Karen Tobin; Karen's husband John Tobin; Gary and Karen's mom, Mary Lou Peterson; and our sponsor Tom Brennan from Erie Federal Credit Union. The family participated in Erie Times-News' Key Hunts in the past but never won.

What a terrific ending to this incredible contest!

Many thanks to everyone who participated and the crowd of about 200 people in Girard who looked for the elusive key in the dark. It was wild.

The key was found in under 4 minutes from the time people were allowed on the property.

We had all ages of people at the Yellow House - from teenagers and up. They were very thankful for the books we had available as consolation prizes and the Key Hunt explainers on site, and they were most gracious in congratulating our winners.

On Thursday morning, Adam and our winners shared experiences about the contest on air at Erie News Now, our media partners. Special thanks to our sponsor Erie Federal Credit Union for the grand prize. To watch the video, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og3aGU6Yqb0&t=7s

To see all the clues and explainers, visit our website.