# THANK YOU



















# FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CHAGRIN FALLS
Est. 1949
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Chagrin Falls Historical Society & Museum

Annual Report

January 1-December 31, 2020

# Chagrin Falls Historical Society & Museum

# WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE

We have been an organization since 1949. We exist to discover, preserve, and share evidence of and knowledge about the history of Chagrin Falls and vicinity. The following pages highlight examples of YOUR IMPACT from your membership and gifts.

Our thanks





Dear Friends,

This has been a more challenging year than any of us could have imagined. We understand how disruptive this time has been for you and your family. Indeed, we are living through a historic moment.

As a non-profit organization whose mission it is to educate, preserve, and honor the past, we strived in 2020 to find new ways to share your favorite museum resources with you and speak to the issues of our time.

- We elevated our social media presence, creating a YouTube channel and Facebook videos to increase our virtual interactions with the public.
- We made a public statement regarding Black Lives Matter and that we would continue to preserve and exhibit history that incorporates all people of the Chagrin Valley.
- Our volunteer staff wrote a series of articles for the *Chagrin Valley Times* about the history of the Black community in the Chagrin Valley, as well as how Chagrin dealt with the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic.

This annual report highlights some of the ways your membership funds and generous donations, and support from our community partners have helped keep history alive even during this turbulent time. We hope these stories fill you with a sense of pride. Thank you for your support and making all of this possible.

We are honored by your confidence in our work and are grateful to have you by our side.

Executive Director

President, Board of Trustees

## Board of Trustees

John Bourisseau, President; Ralph Razinger, Vice-President;
Connie Miller, Secretary; Carolyn Sihler, Treasurer;
Marnie Albers; Laurie Bilger; Carol Dolan; Ken Kvacek; Paul Neidhardt;
Jeffrey Polcar; Susan White; Barb Wynveen

## Trustees Emeritus

Perry Clark; Laura Gorretta; Bill Hamann; Phil Koepf; Todd Lyle;
Michelle McQuade; Margi O'Brien

# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

## Community

**930** Visitors
**346** Members
**61** Research requests
**26** New members
**3** Century Home plaques awarded

## Education

**18** School field trips (January-March)
**6** Private group tours
**3** Scholarships to High School seniors

## Collections

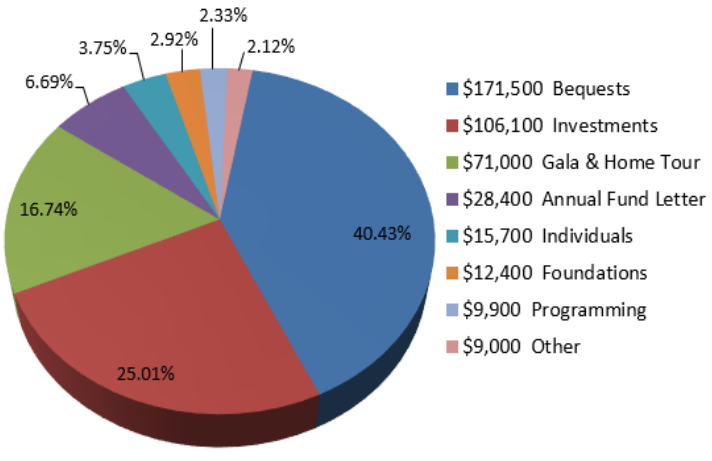
**1,163** Items entered into the database
**44** Items accessed into the collection

## Volunteers

**4,598** Volunteer hours
**44** Volunteers

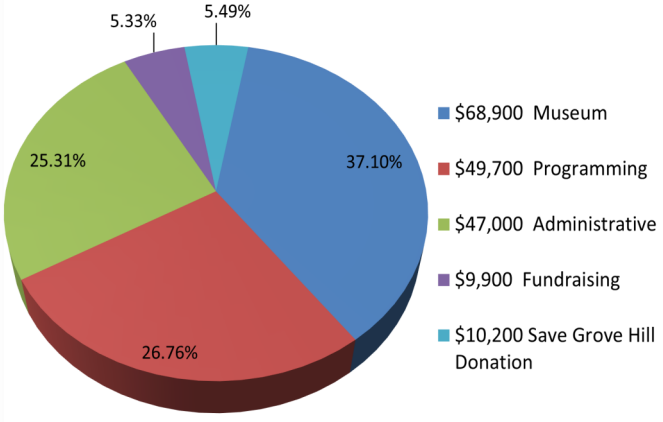
# 2020 FISCAL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

**INCOME FOR 2020**




| TOTAL | $424,100 |
|---|---|

**EXPENSES FOR 2020**




| TOTAL | $128,800 |
|---|---|

We received approval for funds through the federal government's Payroll Protection Loan Program to help keep our staff working through the pandemic providing virtual content.

# THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are extremely grateful for our community partners.
The support, collaboration, and the love of the arts in
Chagrin is a special part of our Village.
We are a community that treasures our non-profits.

Chagrin Valley Art Center; Chagrin Valley Little Theatre;
Chagrin Arts; Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce;
Chagrin Falls Park Community Center; Village of Chagrin Falls;
Village Arts Council; Chagrin Falls Schools;
Chagrin Valley Times; Chagrin Falls Public Library;
And all of their supporters and ours who love this Village

## Mission Statement

The Chagrin Falls Historical Society discovers, preserves, and shares evidence of and knowledge about the history of Chagrin Falls and vicinity. The Society does this to enable all who live, work, and visit the area to appreciate its past, understand its present, and plan for its future.




## In Memoriam

Two weeks prior to his October 2020 death from a terminal illness, David Carpenter generously donated the narrow gauge train which he built by hand. David and his family gathered at the Historical Society so we could film him talking about the train. We cannot wait to incorporate the train and video into our exhibit gallery. We are so grateful to his widow Nancy and the entire Carpenter family. Thank you.

Arline Moore passed away in 2017 but her legacy and love of Chagrin lives on. Arline listed the Historical Society, as well as other Chagrin organizations, as a beneficiary of her estate. Due to the untimely death of her daughter in 2020, we received a large bequest from the Arline Moore estate. This was unexpected and we are eternally grateful to Arline Moore for including the Historical Society in her will.



# Community Involvement

## Saving Grove Hill





We joined the Save Grove Hill neighborhood group and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to save this iconic home and location of the Pumpkin roll and a breathtaking view over the Village. Together we raised $600K to save the property from a developer. The Historical Society has since completed a documentary showcasing the campaign, as well as the countless times that the citizens of Chagrin have come together to save history!

## Spirited Dining & Drive-thru

No gala? No problem! We asked our sponsors and volunteers, and you responded in a big way! Thanks to YOU, we were able to successfully raise funds through a dinner pickup at Murphy Funeral Home, several private parties, and a virtual gift basket raffle!








## Spirits all over Chagrin









Our 3rd Annual Spirits Alive! at Evergreen Hill Cemetery sponsored by Stroud Lawrence Funeral Home, was a success again thanks to YOU! Chagrin loves to learn history through spirits. In addition to Spirits Alive!, in collaboration with the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce we introduced Riverside Park Ghost Walk with high school students as our spirits.

# Programming

## Education

Education is one of the top priorities of our museum. Our mission is to educate the general public which includes adults and children. Prior to the nationwide shutdown in March, the Historical Society hosted 2 field trips for retirement communities, 3 adult programs, and 18 field trips for Chagrin students. We have a strong Education Committee and staff who oversee field trips, tours, history containers for teachers, and classroom lessons. We have developed lessons and activities for K-12. Outside of grade schools, our college internship program continues to grow!



## INNOVATIONS






## Exhibits

Our Exhibits Committee created a three-year exhibit plan for our rotating gallery. Although we were interrupted by COVID, we needed to find new ways to continue our mission. We responded with virtual exhibit videos and social media posts. We also created a YouTube channel to post all of our content.

## POLITICAL CAMPAIGN MEMORABILIA



Some of our exhibits have objects loaned by our members. The Political Campaign Memorabilia exhibit was the collection of member Bill Diesing.

## WELCOME CHRISTMAS





# Preservation of Objects










## Deaccession Process



One of our long-term goals is to assess all the objects we have, properly store them, and enter each into our Collections database. This will help with our storage issues and give us a chance to preserve the history of each piece which is currently handwritten on notecards.

## Artwork Storage

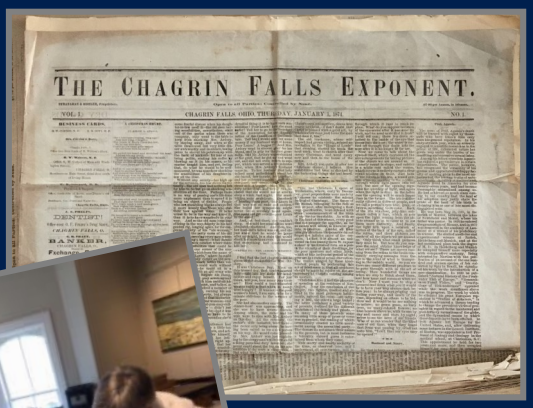
Due to storage issues, it was hard to properly store artwork. We needed a system that would make the art safer and easier to locate. We found images of a DIY system online that met our needs.



It was serendipitous that an Eagle Scout candidate who could handle the project, and a generous donation of shelves from a longtime member and volunteer who was moving, occurred at the same time. Financial support is crucial but this preservation project shows that your volunteer time and donations of items we need, are also important.



# Preservation of the Archives


THE CHAGRIN FALLS EXPONENT.

CHAGRIN FALLS OHIO THURSDAY JANUARY 1, 1874






## The Exponent

We were awarded a grant in 2019 from the Ohio History Connection's Ohio History Fund which allowed us to digitize part of *The Exponent*, at one time the sole newspaper for Chagrin Falls and vicinity. The Ohio History Fund is supported exclusively by voluntary donations of state income tax refunds and designated gifts to the Ohio History Connection.

The grant covered the first two decades of the paper: 1874-1893. The digitized *Exponent* is now available online on the Ohio Memory website, a digital repository of Ohio's history; thereby strengthening access to, use of and appreciation for Chagrin Falls and vicinity's rich industrial and cultural past.

## Microfilm Reader

Through the generosity of The Chagrin Valley Jaycees, the William O. and Gertrude Lewis Frohring Foundation, and an anonymous donor, we purchased a new microfilm machine. The old machine was over 35 years old and needed frequent repair. This will make a huge difference for us. The microfilm reader is in almost daily use by researchers and students working on school projects. A microfilm reader is used to project and magnify images stored in microform to be legible to the viewer. Microfilm is the national standard for museums and archives to store documents and newspapers in a small space. It has become increasingly prevalent as storage of archived newspapers, government documents, and more.






# Preserving the Church Family Collections

Thanks to donations to the Church Family Legacy Fund, we are able to preserve artifacts from the Church family.



## BIG HENRY!

In July 2020 we received news from Church family member, Jane Babinsky, that she had a large canvas of Henry Church, Jr.. Large is an understatement. We have **big** plans for a **big** reveal for **BIG HENRY!** So stay tuned!



Skip Church, an award winning Producer, created a documentary on his Church family ancestors which we have entered into the 2021 Chagrin Documentary Film Festival

## Nitrate Film

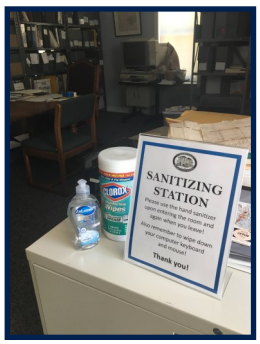
ica art conservation



Part of our collection of Church family photos was a box of supposed nitrate film which is highly flammable in large quantities. Under the supervision of the Chagrin Falls Fire Marshall, we opened the container and then promptly took the film to ICA to examine. Ruth then spent 1.5 days at ICA in Ohio City flattening and encapsulating the film in mylar. We are excited to continue this project to see what all of the pictures are (obviously, there is one of a Greyhound like Dexter!)

# WE SALUTE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all of our volunteers over the years and especially through 2020. You folded newsletters, set up exhibits, and continued research and collections projects, all while following COVID-19 protocols.






# THANK YOU DONORS

The following individuals and organizations have contributed $250 or more cumulatively to the Chagrin Falls Historical Society for the 2020 Fiscal Year. It's because of your generosity that the Museum has been able to accomplish so much this year. Thank you for believing in us and our mission.

Mary E. Albers
Laurie & Stephen Bilger
John & Mary Bourisseau
Tom & Louise Brick
Randall H. Brown & Marta Kuivinen Brown
Anne Burr
Dave & Nancy Carpenter
Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chagrin Valley Jaycees
Rod & Cinda Chima
Chuck's Fine Wines
Perry Clark
John H. Corrigan
Will Czerr
Elizabeth Porter Daane
James & Signe Forbes
Glenmede
Peter Goldman
Laura Gorretta
Bill & Gretchen Hamann
Hamlet of Chagrin Falls
Hemlock Landscapes
William O. & Gertrude Lewis Frohring Foundation
Catherine L & Edward A Lozick Foundation
Priscilla Hoag
Karl & Lynn Hoekstra
Gary & Jean Hood
Jerry & Patty Hridel
Jan Jones Artz
Frank & Kim Kanzinger
Paul & Diane Kiffner
Christine Kohls
Ray & Kathy Kolcaba
Kenneth & Mariann Kvacek
Lambert Buick GMC
M Italian/Burntwood Tavern
Murphy Funeral Home
Ohio Real Title Agency
Michelle McQuade Team at Howard Hanna
Connie M. Miller
Arline M. Moore Estate
Lori Muller-Zaim
Cliff & Diana Nazelli
Paul & Kathy Neidhart
Margi & John O'Brien
John Park
Alan Pearch
Jack & Pamela Polcar
Polcar-Schmittel Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo
Timothy & Margaret Price
Emery C. Prior
Donald Raker
Ralph & Geri Razinger
Nancy Rogoff
Carolyn J. Sihler
Beth Bailey Skeel
South Franklin Circle
Stroud Lawrence Funeral Home
M. Barnes & Sally Taft
Stephen & Debi Thomas
John & Joyce Thomas
Craig Thompson
William & Friday Tomko
William & Constance Trautman
Isaac & Anne Tripp
Tod & Susan White
Jeff & Patti Widmar
Barb Wynveen

# 1833 Legacy Circle

*Help to Preserve the Very Best*

**We invite you to make an investment now so future generations may enjoy our treasures and heritage.**

When you make an **1833 Legacy Circle Gift** you will be recognized as an honored supporter and member of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society & Museum.

## Did You Know That. . .

- **Giving** during your lifetime may provide an immediate income tax deduction.
- Your **Gift** may provide an income tax deduction for your estate.
- Your **Gift** may serve as a way to reduce income taxes your beneficiaries would otherwise pay.
- Your **Gift** may be at the level of a naming opportunity.

## There are many wonderful options for your 1833 Legacy Circle Gift:

- Matching corporate gifts
- Gifts of stocks and bonds
- Annuities
- Real estate

**An 1833 Legacy Circle Gift designated in your name can be for current use or establishing restricted funds for special purposes including (but not limited to):**

- Conservation of a specific Collection
- Educational Programming
- Scholarship Fund
- Building Maintenance Reserve





For more information contact: Ruth Zeager at 440-247-4695 or director@chagrinhistory.org




Staff & Volunteer Staff

Executive Director: Ruth Zeager
President: John Bourisseau
Treasurer: Carolyn Sihler
Administrative Assistant: Maxine Sykora
Special Projects Coordinator: Marnie Albers
Curator: Pat Zalba
Assistant Curator: Sally Hawkins
Archivist: Laura Gorretta
Photo Archivist: Zo Sykora

**Chagrin Falls Historical Society & Museum**
PO Box 515
87 E. Washington St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
440.247.4695
www.chagrinhistory.org