

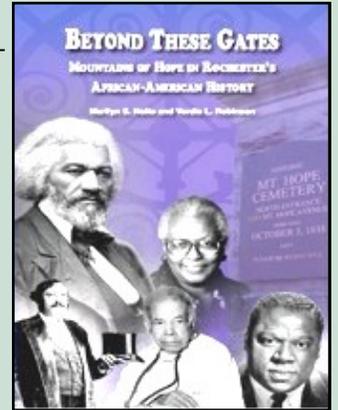


Sunday, February 10th, 2019, Greece Museum 2:00 p.m.

Beyond These Gates:

Mountains of Hope in Rochester's African-American History,  
with Marilyn Nolte

Beyond These Gates - Mountains of Hope in Rochester's African-American History by **Marilyn Nolte and Verdis Robinson** is a 95-page book focusing on the lives of over 45 African-Americans interred in Mount Hope Cemetery; Rochester's municipally-owned Victorian rural cemetery. The lives of those discussed range from Rochester's earliest days through the beginning of the 21st century. Some are well known, some are being introduced to the public for the first time.

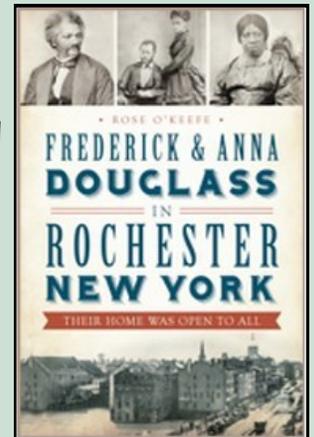


Author **Marilyn Nolte** has been a volunteer at Mt. Hope Cemetery since the mid-1990s and recently completed a 10-year term as president of the Friends of Mount Hope. The book will be available for sale at this event. The price is \$25 (tax included). You will also receive, while supplies last, a copy of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery's previous book on Frederick Douglass and the Underground Railroad.

Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 Greece Public Library 7:00 p.m.

Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester, NY: Their Home Was Open to All  
by Rose O'Keefe

Frederick Douglass spent twenty-five years with his family in Rochester, beginning in 1848. Despite living through one of our nation's most bitter and terrifying times, Frederick and his wife, Anna, raised five children in a loving home with flower, fruit and vegetable gardens. While Frederick traveled widely, fighting for the freedom and rights of his brethren, Anna cared for their home and their family and extended circle. Their house was open to fugitives on the Underground Railroad, visiting abolitionists and houseguests who stayed for weeks, months and years at a time. Local author Rose O'Keefe weaves together the story of the Douglass' experience in Rochester and the indelible mark they left on the Flower City.



**Rose O'Keefe** enjoys helping renew our pride and interest in local history. Besides several books on local area history, Rose has written two books on the life of Frederick Douglass and his family members. Through her history books and regional history fairs, Rose has brought together area community groups, vendors, authors and speakers.

Autographed copies of her book "Frederick & Anna Douglass in Rochester New York" will be available for \$20.00 (tax included).

## **"President's Message"**

Even though the museum was closed on Sundays in January, we started out 2019 with an entertaining program about the history of fast food hamburgers, held our annual meeting, inventoried our museum shop and did some general building housekeeping. The Christmas decorations are even put away till next year.

After being closed for four weeks we are again open on Sunday afternoons and will have a program on Sunday, February 10th. This month we will explore the African American community. Our Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening programs both reflect this theme. We hope you join us and learn something you may have not learned in school.

If you missed our annual meeting, our 2018 annual report is now available on-line, or copies are available at the museum.

We are planning another pasta dinner in the spring, a free photo scanning day in May, several more Sunday afternoon programs, another cemetery tour, a new featured exhibit and our annual strawberry festival on June 17th and on Saturday, October 26th we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary with a dinner at Red Fedele's Brook House.

As a reminder, our membership year is May 1st through April 30th. We will be sending out reminder letters in the spring. If you have already sent your renewal in or plan to before May 1st, you will be credited for this year.

We still could use some volunteer docents, and museum gift shop help for Sunday afternoons. We are also in the need of a membership chairperson, someone to process several hundred membership renewals in the spring.

As always, thank you to all our volunteers, our members, and friends who support us and our local businesses who contribute to the success of the Greece Historical Society.

**Bill Sauers, President**



### **Our Calendar**

#### **"GHS Events and Programs"**

**Museum and Museum Shop hours: Sundays 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
and during office hours Mondays 10 a.m.- Noon**

**Sunday, Feb 10th, 2019:** Beyond These Gates: Mountains of Hope in Rochester's African-American History, by Marilyn Nolte \*

**Tuesday, Feb 12th, 2019:** Frederick and Anna Douglass ... Their Home Was Open to All by Rose O'Keefe \*\*

**Tuesday, Mar 12th, 2019:** An Equal Right to Act: Remembering the Rochester Woman's Rights Convention of 1848 with Ira Srole \*\*

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019:** The American Life of Joseph Biggio by Edward Maruggi \*

**\*Sunday programs are at the Greece Museum, 2:00 p.m.**

**\*\*Tuesday programs are at the Greece Public Library, 7:00 p.m.**

Please join us for any or all of these events. We are here for you. If you've been curious about something in Greece's past, please let us know. We might be curious, too!



This newsletter is published monthly by the editor for the Greece Historical Society and Museum.  
~ **Cyndie Shevlin, Editor**

**We greatly value and appreciate your donations\*.**

\*Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

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Bring this ad into Holy Sepulchre Cemetery or Ascension Garden and receive a \$50 VISA Gift Card with grave, crypt or niche purchase. Offer valid until February 28, 2019.  
Not valid on prior purchases.

## "Museum Shop"



In February, we will be back to our regular hours. Stop in for some reading material to relax and enjoy the winter weather in Upstate New York.

We are open Sundays 1:30-4:00pm.

**Wendy Peeck,**  
**Museum Shop Coordinator**

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Everyone's renewal date is May 1st.

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### 2018 Annual Report Now Available

**GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**2018**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

Preserving our Town's History  
Since 1949



Our 2018 Annual Report is now available on our web site <http://greecehistoricalsociety.org/>. (You'll see a link on the left-hand side of the page) It is an opportunity for everyone to see what the Greece Historical Society has accomplished and what we have contributed to the community this past year. If you do not have internet access, printed copies are available at our museum. Thank you for your contributions and membership support.

*Celebrate life.*



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## Greece History

### Greece Performing Arts Society History by Bill Coons

The **Greece Performing Arts Society (GPAS)** was born in 1969 at Olympia High School in a series of meetings organized by **Robert Holtz**, the newly appointed Director of Continuing Education for the Greece School District. At first, it consisted of the Greece Orchestral Society, led by **Dr. David Fetler** and a Community Symphony, led by **Roy Thrall**. The name was changed to the Greece Performing Arts Society, when the Choral Society, led by **Ralph Zecchino**, joined in 1970. In the ensuing years, many notable events have taken place in the life of GPAS:

- 1971: GPAS Arts Festivals began
- 1972: Incorporation complete, 1<sup>st</sup> Young Artist competition
- 1973: First annual meeting, Women's Committee formed, Summer Theatre
- 1974: First GPAS sponsored Summer Theatre, temporary "not for profit" permit received, first Christmas Concert
- 1975: Arts Festival becomes Town of Greece Bicentennial performances. New positions established: Program Coordinator, Publicity Director
- 1976: Choral Society with RPO at the Dome Arena
- 1980: Arts Festival becomes Pops Concerts at Mapledale Party House
- 1982: First garage sale fundraiser
- 1983: First Chinese dinner fundraiser, first Festival of Religious Music
- 1990: Choral Society and Oratorio Society 1<sup>st</sup> European trip
- 1993: GPAS Concert Band created
- 1995: Office of Historian established, Choral Society 2<sup>nd</sup> European trip
- 1997: GPAS Jazz Band created, First Garden Tour fund raiser
- 1999: Summer Supervisor's Concerts began, web site established
- 2000: First gift wrapping booth fundraiser began at the Greece Mall
- 2004: **Paula Kosiorek** elected 14<sup>th</sup> GPAS President, serving for 12 years
- 2014: GPAS history on website, **Ralph Zecchino** retires as Choral Society Director
- 2016: **Eric Vaughn Johnson** elected 15<sup>th</sup> President, By-laws revised
- 2017: New Theatre Company presents "Hunchback of Notre Dame" at Lyric Theatre
- 2018: Theatre Company presents "Adams Family", 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Summer Soiree fundraiser
- 2019: GPAS celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



Over the past 50 years, the growth and success of the GPAS has been under the committed leadership of many board presidents including **Betty Alleman, Fred Koeng, Myron White, Joyce Perkins, Charles Goodhue, H. Glen Alleman, Bill Fellows, Arthur Able, Joyce Horn, Joanne Dennstedt, Carol Coons, Chuck Huffine, Rick Stein, Paula Kosiorek** and now **Eric Vaughn Johnson**.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the GPAS, many year-long events are planned including the "Young Artists Auditions and Recital," "A Taste of Song Prism Concert" with the Greater Rochester Choral Consortium, "Puppy Love Cabaret" to benefit GRASP, Saturday Night Fever Hits of the 1970's Concert, "Tale as Old as Time" Annual Summer Soiree and more events to be announced.

For more information, please visit <http://www.greeceperformingart.org>, find us and "like" us on Facebook or call (585)234-5636.

### Share Your Stories and Memories

We love to read stories and memories by YOU, the average Greece resident. Each of you has a story to tell. You (or your group) can submit a local history story or memories of growing up in the Town of Greece. Email your story to: [greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) along with a photo and brief bio. Your story should be no more than 500 words. Don't worry if you're not an English scholar — we will edit as needed for continuity, grammar, punctuation, etc.

## In Memoriam

### A Tribute to a Past President: Eric Peter Smith



**Eric "Pete" Smith**, who passed away November 8, 2018 in St. Augustine, Florida, guided the Greece Historical Society as president at a crucial time in the history of the organization – acquiring, funding, moving, and renovating the Larken-Beattie-Howe house for our offices and museum. He was tireless in his renovations of the house after it was in place. Walls were cracked; floors need sanding and refinishing, layers of wall paper needed to be stripped and the walls painted. There was dry rot on the corner of the house and around the windows on the porch that **Fred Meredith** was able to repair, and then install new windows. He headed a team of dedicated volunteers. We worked five days a week before and after the move.

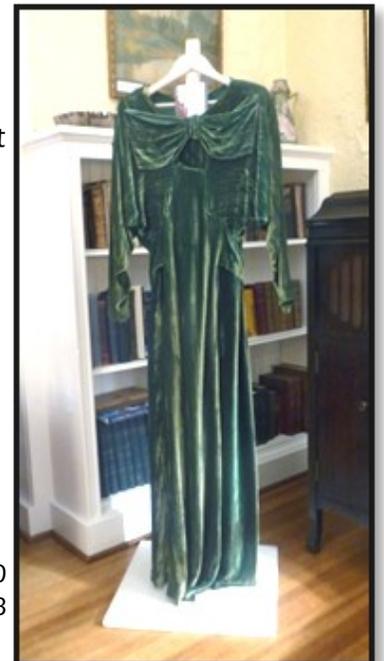
The Society had earned the money we needed to have the basement built from sales of "Eight Miles Along the Shore", but other money needed to be raised. We held fund raising events at Ridgemont Country Club, wrote grants, asked our members for much needed pledges (the Board of Trustees gave \$10,000.00), and we worked through all the steps needed to apply for a Town permit to move the house. Thanks to Wegmans, who paid Matthews House Movers about \$25,000, the house became our new home.

It was a tense time for the Smith family as their daughter Lisette was hospitalized in Minnesota where she received a bone marrow transplant. Pete and Marion stayed in Minnesota to care for her for a few months while some of the action with the house move took place. Lisette is healthy and a veterinarian today

Pete was a teacher at Greece Central Schools and also coached after school. It is nice to know that hundreds of school children have benefited from all his efforts. They have come for school tours at the Greece Museum each year since the house opened to the public. Adults have rented the house for weddings, baby showers, and birthday parties. We can't thank him enough for all he did for the Greece Historical Society and the community.

## Treasures from the Attic

Over the years many pieces of clothing have been donated to the museum. Because many of these treasures have not been part of exhibits, members really don't know what treasures are in the attic. This past spring, we started a project to catalog and sort the clothing and each month or two display one of these treasures. Starting in June we displayed a beautiful wedding gown from 1968. With the July 4th holiday, a red, white and blue child's dress from the 1950s era was shown. In August a beautiful ladies lawn tea dress, circa early 1900s graced the living room. A ladies gym/bathing suit from the 1900-1905 era was displayed in the fall. Closing out the year, a 1930s era green velvet gown fit right in with the holiday theme in the living room. Stop in to see what treasure will grace the parlor next.



Green Velvet Gown circa 1930  
donated by **B. J. Anderson** in 1988

# "Valentine Greetings" by Alan Mueller

As far back as the Middle Ages Valentine greetings were said or sung by lovers. Written Valentines began to appear by 1500. Early printed Valentines were in black and white, often with images tinted by hand. The first manufactured Valentine in the United States was by Esther Howland in 1850. She was a printer, artist and publisher/seller of her cards. By the 1900s Valentines were being published in many countries. England, Germany and the United States were the most prolific and the best. Americans exchange more cards on Valentine's Day than any other time of the year. Shown here are a small sampling of popular Valentine cards from about 1915 to 1940.

## "Happy Valentine's Day from the Greece Historical Society"



## "Tours and Education"

### TOURS

It has been a quiet time for tours but we continue to update our new School Days Exhibit. If anyone has any memorabilia that they would be willing to share, please contact the GHS at 225-7221.

**Kathie Firkins, Education Coordinator**

## Museum Happenings



Your Board of Trustees meet regularly to review our finances, plan the activities and programs, and set goals for the Society.

On January 10th, **Alan Mueller** and **Bill Sauers** had the opportunity to tour Archival Methods, a local manufacturer and national distributor of archival storage material. They participate in our annual free scanning day, which will be held on May 4th this year.



On January 17<sup>th</sup>, we held our Annual Meeting. Four board members were re-elected, members were told about future plans, and a financial review was presented with our 2018 Annual Report.

On January 8th, more than 60 of our members and neighbors came out on a foggy Tuesday evening and enjoyed **Don Hall's** talk about the history of fast food hamburgers, proving that a history lesson can be fun and entertaining!



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 Greece Museum  
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**Website:** [www.greecehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.greecehistoricalsociety.org)

Your tax deductible membership in the Greece Historical Society is available at several levels. To join, renew, upgrade your membership or to donate a gift, fill out and mail the form below or bring it to our next program meeting. To pay via PayPal, visit our website at [www.greecehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.greecehistoricalsociety.org)

**Only your donations and memberships keep our Museum open. Thank you for your support.**

**GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

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(Please print)

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