

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CORNING-PAINTED POST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
& HERITAGE VILLAGE OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES



# 2024 Board of Trustees

## Officers

Casey Winston	President
Alison Merkl	Vice President
Amy Irvine	Controller
Robert Patterson. Jr.	Treasurer
Dr. Edward Franklin	Secretary

## Trustees

Debbie Amati  
Katherine Banerjee  
Elizabeth Lorenz  
Gautam Meda  
Sean Lukasik – Immediate Past President

## Staff

Charlette J. Smith, Director  
Soni Lacey, Office Manager  
Patrick Monahan, Education Coordinator  
Darby Webster, Custodian  
Anna Hoyler, Depot

## Vision

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society is a dynamic, community responsive, educational organization that inspires community memory by linking our local history and heritage to contemporary life.

## Mission

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society shall preserve and share our area’s history through educational programming and exhibits, building preservation, archival collections, and experiential learning.

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## From the Board President

After my first year as Board President, I want to take a moment to reflect on all the hard work and dedication I have been privileged to witness this year. The staff and volunteers at the Heritage Village really go above and beyond to make our campus a welcoming, interactive, and truly, living piece of history. No matter the day, our buildings are full of life and energy and I am truly grateful to all who make that possible. Our Village comes to life because of the amazing and dedicated staff, volunteers, and members who contribute daily to the successful operation of this organization.

As most of you know, we began 2024 with a new director in place, but by October, we were, once again, left without a director. In the year that Charlette Smith was here, she contributed to some very exciting projects, including the "Corning At Bat," exhibit featuring materials donated and leant by Don Allison. The exhibit was a smashing success and we welcomed hundreds of baseball fans throughout the summer and heard many fascinating stories about Corning baseball.

In lieu of hiring a new director, the Board unanimously and enthusiastically voted to promote Soni Lacey to Operations Manager after her more than 10 years of dedicated service to CPPHS. We are thrilled to see the strides she has already made in her new position!

In 2024, we were excited to be awarded a \$50,000 capital projects grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, as well as a \$40,000 general operating grant. The capital projects grant is being used to update the Ian Mackenzie Memorial Herb Garden and to raze the Sly Avenue gas station kiosk to make a level parking lot. The herb garden project broke ground in April 2025.

As we look to the coming year, we have many exciting programs, projects, and exhibits in place. I am confident that we will have another fantastic year inviting the community onto our campus because of the love and enthusiasm you all have for this organization.

With sincere gratitude,  
Casey Winston



*Photo by Lee Speary*

## Buildings & Grounds

**Committee Members:** Alison Merkl, Darby Webster, Sandy Franklin, and Leon Golder

### **Responsibilities:**

The committee is tasked with preserving, accurately restoring, and regularly inspecting our unique collection of historical buildings.

### **Activities:**

- Replaced an additional Boiler Zone Pump at the Inn.
- Addressed concerns regarding the new metal chimney at the schoolhouse by installing a custom metal flue pipe and improving fire safety measures.
- With the assistance of member volunteers, we completed several repairs, updates, and beautification projects at the Village and Depot.
- Responded to multiple “Low Temperature” and intruder alerts from Sentry Alarms during winter. Each alert was addressed as we managed very cold temperatures and significant wind chill in the uninsulated board and baton structure. Cobwebs triggered the motion detectors, but thankfully, there were no squirrel incidents this time.

### **Additional Accomplishments:**

- Fabricated and installed a water spigot extension for the Memorial Herb Garden.
- Cabin enhancements included hanging a deer hide, creating and installing a shawl hook, constructing a drying rack for herbs above the hearth, and making a rustic curtain rod.
- Darby repaired and repainted a plaster crack in the Inn’s hallway.
- Removed several large tree branches that fell during the July windstorm.
- Completed an HVAC unit inspection—thank you, Alison and Darby, for covering this expense.
- Continued routine lawn and property maintenance.
- Installed a dawn-to-dusk sensor for the outside security lights at the Depot Museum.
- Identified that the rattling noise in the Depot’s HVAC was due to a vibrating duct, not an issue with the circulating system.
- Replaced a cracked and rotting floorboard in the barn.
- Created and installed a new “Welcome Sign” in the Flint Ave parking lot.
- Alison and Darby regularly cleaned and dusted all the buildings in the Heritage Village.
- Repurposed the “Tool Shed” into a functional space for tools instead of storage. B&G members now have a dedicated work area.
- Darby and Alison continue to carry out various repairs, updates, and general improvements.
- The repair of the Schoolhouse bell rope is still ongoing, focusing on preventing future rope breaks.
- Installed 24/7 monitored recording security cameras on the Office Building to enhance safety for employees and guests.

## Buildings & Grounds *continued*

### Significant Projects Scheduled for This Summer:

- The Depot Museum will be repainted using historically accurate colors by professional historic building painters this summer.
- We will completely redefine and refresh our stone walkways starting in May, coordinating this project with the ongoing Memorial Garden project for better synergy.
- Repair two dry-rotted log ends on the Cabin and attempt to deter carpenter bees from swarming.
- After the conclusion of Schoolhouse programs, we will repaint the Blackboard, which consists of the inside horizontal boards of the schoolhouse (and yes, those lines are there for neat handwriting).

### Daily and Weekly Activities Include:

- Mowing
- Weed whacking
- Trimming branches
- Picking up debris
- Replacing broken window panes
- Cleaning, general repairs, and adjustments.

Please direct any Building & Grounds suggestions or concerns to Soni, who will pass them along to us. This approach will streamline communication and minimize the chances of messages getting lost through word of mouth.

**We welcome additional members!** If you know how to use a hammer, differentiate between Phillips and slotted screwdrivers, and are willing to get your hands dirty, we have a committee just for you!



## Contributions and Donations

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following for their financial contributions and gifts in 2023:

### General Operating

Anonymous  
Debbie Amati  
David & Mamie Anderson  
Katherine Banerjee  
James Bowdy  
Ann Brouse  
Susanne Brown  
Bruce & Jean Campbell  
Linda Conway  
Sarah Flaherty  
Kathryn Gerwig  
William & Roberta Hirliman  
Elise Johnson-Schmidt  
Cheryl Jordan  
Shannon Kete  
Sylvia Kete  
Jean K. Krebs  
Mary-Claire Krebs  
Imogene McKendrick  
Robert & Barbara McLean  
Richard Perry  
Karlye Pillai  
Margaret S. Smith  
Jill VanDewoestine & Glenn Kohnke  
Ristiina Wigg

### In-Kind

Leon & Sheri Golder  
Brian & Chris Hoyler

### FLX Gives

Debbie Amati  
Barbara Bailey  
Katherine Banerjee  
Carmela Bertron  
Jill Blagg  
Jennifer Fais  
Edward & Mary Franklin  
Herb & Mary Ann Garlock  
Randi Hewitt  
Roberta Hirliman  
Karalyn Hunt  
Erika Jenns  
Sylvia Kete  
Jean Krebs  
Elizabeth Lorenz  
Emily Lowery  
Sean Lukasik  
Nancy Magrath  
Katharine Mead  
Gautam Meda  
Alison Merkl & Darby Webster  
Marge Nieber  
Robert Patterson, Jr.  
Paul & Kelly Perine  
David Rochelle  
Karen Rowe  
Charlette Smith  
Casey Winston  
Bonnie Winters

### Annual Appeal

James & Mary Bacalles  
Bernadette Baldini  
William & Susan Boland  
Barbara Cook  
Herb & Mary Ann Garlock  
Bonnie Gestwicki  
Mary Ellen Haff  
Harry Jonas  
Thomas & Shirley Kowalik  
Ristiina Wigg  
Anita Woodhouse

### Endowment

Norma Bird  
Ian G. Mackenzie

### Organizations

Corning Area Retired Teachers  
Corning Area Women's Club  
Gamma Zeta  
Chapter Delta Kappa  
Gamma Society

**Please note that some contributions to the 2024 Annual Appeal were not made until 2025 and will be reflected in next year's report.**



## Exhibits

In June of 2024 we unveiled our exhibition, “Corning at Bat – A Journey Through Our Baseball History.” The exhibit celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the 1954 Corning Red Sox PONY League Champions. It featured former Corning baseball players jerseys, photographs, articles, programs, baseball cards, and more.

The peak of Corning professional baseball occurred in the mid-1950s, when the Boston Red Sox organization operated a P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania-Ontario-New York) League club. Many players came through Corning in those years, with some going on to become Major League stars and others building long minor league careers.

Over the next 60 years, Corning native Don Allison collected memorabilia of the Corning Red Sox, which he remembered watching at War Memorial Stadium as a school boy. Mr. Allison has generously donated objects from his personal collection to the Corning-Painted Post Historical Society and to the Boston Red Sox. Most of the items featured in the exhibit were from his collection

## Collections

In 2023 the Historical Society began a significant project to update its collections database and streamline information in preparation for an upgrade to a new, more advanced system. We continue to work on this project in order to enhance the Society's operations and enhance accessibility to its vast collection of historical records and artifacts. With the new PastPerfect web based system, the Society aims to make its wealth of information more readily available to the public, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of local history.

Our thanks to Sheri Golder who has spent a significant amount of time working on this project.

## Education Committee

Members: Debbie Amati, Mary Bacalles, Mary Franklin, Chris Hoyler, Nancy O’Loughlin  
The Education Committee is comprised of a group of retired educators and meets monthly.

This year, the committee has been focused on reviewing, updating, and rewriting programs for students who visit the Heritage Village. Each program is formatted to contain an overview, target audience, number of minutes required, historical background information, objectives, and a comprehensive list of activities and procedures for docents to follow. An appendix with additional information is also included.

The committee duplicates the finished programs, distributes them to the docents, and offers training for them at their monthly meetings. Docents have been given a binder to hold these programs for easy reference. This effort has given docents guidance and has made their presentations more consistent.

The Education Committee also provides and maintains materials used by docents for hands-on activities. Members have sewn costumes for children and donated items to enhance our school programs.

## Special Events and Programs

Here is an overview of our 2024 calendar:

### April

Spring Clean Up

What's Cooking at the Patterson Inn:

Hearth Cooking experience with Paul and Kelly Perine

### May

Threads of Time Quilt Show

Our first quilt show in a decade featured an impressive exhibition of over 100 quilts spanning various styles and historical periods. With proceeds exceeding \$3,000 over the course of the three-day event, we hope to replicate this success in a couple of years.

Annual Membership Meeting:

Hosted virtually and in person, the agenda included approving and introducing new board member(s) and a review of 2023. Following a brief update on finances and the general state of the organization, Jean Walker gave a presentation on the herb garden. With that, plans were revealed for the gardens upgrade in the summer of 2025. Doreen Topielec with DRT Landscaping Designs shared her design concept and plans. This project is made possible by a capital grant we received from the New York State Council on the Arts.

### June:

The Past Meets Present Fashion Show

Hosted by Runway for a Cause and the Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes, "Past Meets Present" beautifully wove together the threads of time and style. This runway exhibition blended elements from bygone eras, ranging from 1795 to 1878, with a modern flair. Seven visionary designers revealed the inspirations behind their creations, culminating in a spectacular display at the outdoor runway of Staybridge Suites in Corning. This outdoor venue marked a first for Runway for a Cause, and we were excited to take that step outside with them. *(Note "Runway" photo featured on cover by Tia Emanuel)*

Corning at Bat: A Journey Through Our Baseball History

*(See more on page 7)*

### August

Family Fun Night

An evening of classic family amusement - for free! The event featured a kids' baseball clinic, enchanting tales, scavenger hunt, nibbles, and more.

### September

Heritage Festival:

Our annual Heritage Festival returned with traditional demonstrators, music, food, re-enactors, country store, raffles, visiting animals, bake sale, rummage and antique sales, hands-on activities and old-fashioned games for families. A new addition that delighted guests was an authentic 1800s chuckwagon.

### November

FLX Gives Fundraiser

Blast Into History:

The 1st McCracken's Company re-enactors joined us for a weekend of living history activities focusing on drills, camp life, children's games, and music of the Revolutionary War.

### December

Holiday Open House:

The event featured our always popular cookie sale, attic treasures, holiday gift shop, kids crafts, coffee and tea shop, demonstrators, and more.



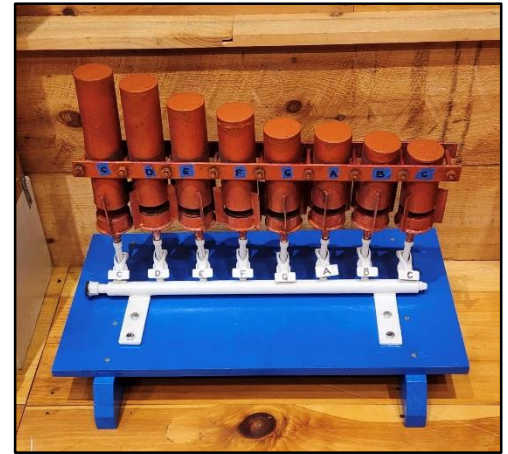


## Painted Post – Erwin Museum at The Depot

The Depot Museum receives an annual operating gift from the Town of Erwin for \$10,000.00. The museum was open Thursday-Saturday from July thru Labor Day weekend with a total of 92 visitors.

Anna Hoyler returned as Depot Manager, accessioning artifacts, greeting visitors, and answering and/or researching questions about Erwin and Painted Post.

Pictured right is a recent acquisition on display at the museum, a calliope made by workers at Ingersoll-Rand in 1945 for the commemoration of V-J (Victory in Japan) Day. The calliope was stored at the I/R plant and used in many Colonial Days parades. Band members were recruited from the West High band to play it. It was generously donated by Bill Hallinan.



### Grants

In 2024, CPPHS received its second ever Support for Organizations grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Additional grant funding is always being pursued as a means to support general operating costs, as well as programs and research initiatives. CPPHS now routinely receives grant support from the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Southern Finger Lakes, the Corning Foundation, Humanities New York and The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.

These are the grants received in 2024:

\$30,000.00 NYSCA (February)

\$1,000.00 Corning Incorporated Employee Vibrant Community Grant from Corning Community Impact and Investment (February)

\$300.00 The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes (July)

\$10,000.00 Community Foundation (September)

\$750.00 Community Foundation (September)

# Financial Report

## Income Statement

### Corning Painted Post Historical Society Investment Summary Report December 31, 2024

At the beginning of the calendar year 2024, the combined Vanguard investment balance of the Inn and the Depot was \$768,874. The balance on December 31st was \$827,982, for a net increase of \$59,108.

Distributions for 2024 - \$0 Contributions for 2024 - \$0

Note: \$20,000 is owed from the Investment account to the Endowment Account; this reconciliation is in process.

YTD (2025) a total of \$41,825 has been disbursed.

YTD (2025) a total of \$90,000 has been added to the endowment.

The portfolio is allocated 64% Stocks, 20% Bonds and 16% in Money Market Funds, managed for long-term growth.

As mentioned in the 2009 annual report, the board chose to separate the Vanguard account based upon endowment donations vs. investment gains, to better monitor the amount required to be kept in the endowment account. A resolution was drafted allowing quarterly transfers to the investment account from the endowment account based upon any gains in the endowment over that time period. Going forward, 90% of any gains in the endowment account may be transferred to the investment account, at the discretion of the board, with the remaining 10% being reinvested into the endowment account. The board has not elected to transfer the gains in 2024, but the finance committee may elect to do so in 2025. However, the board did decide to switch custodians from Vanguard to Charles Schwab.

The total of the endowment account increased from \$563,495 on January 1, 2024 to \$612,461 on December 31, 2024.

The total of the investment account increased from \$150,412 on January 1, 2024 to \$162,037 on December 31, 2024.

The total Depot Account Increased from \$54,968 on January 1, 2024 to \$53,484 on December 31, 2024. This account is 100% in Long-Term Investment Grade Bond Funds.

## Profit & Loss

ACCOUNTS		Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024
Income		\$250,102.04
Cost of Goods Sold		\$0.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>\$250,102.04</b>
As a percentage of Total Income		100.00%
Operating Expenses		\$211,659.39
<b>Net Profit</b>		<b>\$38,442.65</b>
As a percentage of Total Income		15.37%

## Education

In 2024 Heritage Village had the following school and group visits:

### Public Schools

Corning Painted Post Grade 1 - 301  
 Corning Painted Post Grade 2 - 297  
 Corning Painted Post Grade 4 - 337  
 Bath VEW 120  
 Beecher ES 36  
 Campbell-Savona 52  
 Cohen ES 80  
 Hendy Ave ES 82  
 Pine City ES 91  
 Center Street ES 60  
 Big Flats ES 60  
 RB Walters ES 80  
 SRU ES 56  
 Northern Potter 30  
**Total 1562**

### Private Schools/other

St. Mary Our Mother ES 16  
 Hope Academy 49  
 Corning Youth Center 30  
 Southeast Steuben Area Library 10  
 Bus tour 33  
**Total 138**  
**Grand Total 1700**



## Membership

Memberships in 2024 are as follows:

	New	Renewals	Total
Patterson	0	1	1
Benefactor	0	6	6
Family	2	20	22
Honorary	0	4	4
Individual	4	22	26
Patron	2	36	38
Senior Citizen	3	80	83
	11	169	180

It is vitally important for the organization's survival to increase the number of memberships.

## Visitors

Our event attendance was roughly 1350 people. Our walk-in tour total was 128; combined with school groups we had a total of 3,178 visitors in 2024.

**Thank you to all of our dedicated docents and volunteers who give so much of their time, knowledge, and energy to make our programs and events possible.**

Pictured left: Jenny Monroe, Diane Horning, Mary Franklin, Jean Walker, Mary Ann Gontarz, Lisa Rustici, Mary Ellen Haff, Collette Roberts, Roberta Hirleman, Pat Monahan, Nancy O'Loughlin, Lynn Peffley, Kacey Blaney, Diana Fee, Chris Hoyler, Norma Bird

