



HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Prologue

"The past is prologue"

September 2022

Glenford

Old Hurley Founded 1662

West Hurley

Hurley Heritage Society Autumn Auction 2022



Mark your calendars for this year's Hurley Heritage Society Autumn Auction, to be held online starting Thursday, October 20, at 8 p.m. and ending Sunday, October 30, at 8 p.m.

There will truly be something for everyone with fine arts, antiques, jewelry, gift certificates, specialty baskets, and much more. Auction items may be viewed at the Museum on Sunday, October 23, and Saturday, October 29, 1–4 p.m.

All proceeds go to help fund the museum and programs at the all-volunteer Hurley Heritage Society and Museum.

To stay informed of latest Auction news with preview information and updates,

sign up to receive our emails at info@hurleyheritagesociety.org

or go to our website at hurleyheritagesociety.org.

Take care of your holiday shopping while supporting the Hurley Heritage Society!



If you have an item you would like to submit for consideration in our Autumn Auction, would like to make a donation to help fund one of our specialty baskets, or would be interested in assembling a specialty basket, please send an email to auction@hurleyheritagesociety.org.

Greetings, Members & Friends!

It is my pleasure to report a successful summer at the Hurley Heritage Museum. Although we did not share as many activities this season, our Hurley's Homer Revisited exhibit was continuously and positively viewed. We met new visitors from several states and countries, including The Netherlands and Australia. A Children's Tea Party, a first for HHS, was enjoyed by seventeen "very polite and delighted" young people. See the details in this *Prologue*.

We are constantly improving our infrastructure; the electrical system has been successfully upgraded. This enables us to utilize the garage and expand our exhibit space. The exterior lighting is now in code and offers a brighter and safer environment. Thank you to those who generously contributed to make this possible.

This *Prologue* will highlight our fall presentations, so mark your calendar and be sure to follow us on Facebook and our website, www.hurleyheritagesociety.org, for new events and/or investigate our archives in case you have missed a newsletter or two.

My sincerest thanks for all the help and enthusiasm from our supporters. It is never too late to volunteer.

Best wishes.

Dale S. Bohan

President, Hurley Heritage Society
Dale7228@aol.com



Guided Walking Tour of Hurley's Historic Main Street Sunday, September 25 • 2 p.m.

The Hurley Heritage Society will sponsor a guided walking tour of Old Hurley's historic Main Street and the Old Burying Ground as part of the annual HV Ramble. Old Hurley's Main Street is a National Historic Landmark due to its concentration of well-preserved stone houses which have served as residences for more than 300 years.

The guided tour will leave from the Hurley Heritage museum located at 52 Main Street, and will visit many of the old stone houses in close walking distance (the tour is all outside). The guided tour will last approximately one hour.

The cost of the tour is \$5.00 per adult; children under 12 are free. To purchase tickets and more info visit: hurleyheritagesociety.org.

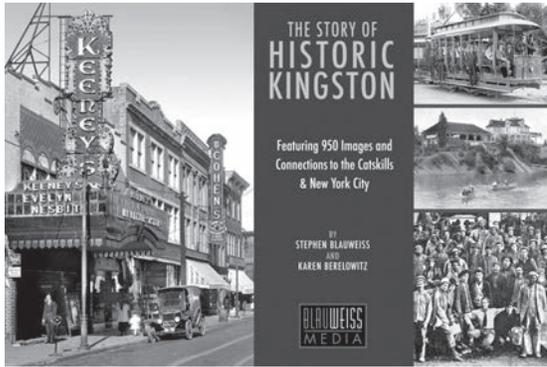
Mums the Word...

We will be having our annual mum sale again this year. This will be the third year of our sale for mums. These beautiful mums are grown locally at **Boice's Farm**. They are big and hardy. The fall colors are so vibrant you will definitely want to order more than one. The deadline for orders is September 17, and the pick-up date will be Saturday, September 24, at the museum. The cost will be \$12 per mum. The order form is enclosed in this *Prologue*, and it is also available online on our website: www.hurleyheritagesociety.org.

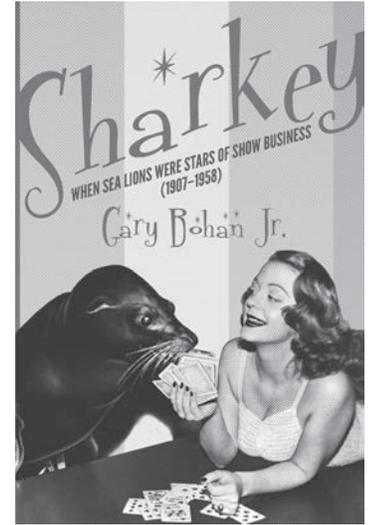


“Sharkey” & “Historic Kingston” Double Feature!

Authors Gary Bohan and Stephen Blauweiss will both be on hand on September 22, 2022, at 7 p.m. at the Cross Point Fellowship Church, 459 Hurley Ave, Hurley, NY. Gary will be discussing his book, *Sharkey: When Sea Lions Were Stars of Show Business*. Stephen will be discussing his book, co-authored by Karen Berelowitz, *The Story of Historic Kingston: Featuring 950 Images and Connections to the Catskills & New York City*.



This live in-person event will feature slides and rare videos—a unique opportunity to hear two authors talking about Kingston’s rich history in what promises to be an informative and entertaining presentation. Gary and Stephen will also provide a sneak peek of their forthcoming collaborative project, which will be announced that evening!



The Museum Library is on the Move!

When the former kitchen in the museum was converted into a library with a generous gift from the Emil Zullo, Jr. family in 2010, the archiving committee decided it was time to transfer their book collection to the new library room.

A committee consisting of Iris Oseas, Mary Reynolds, Viola Opdahl, and Lois Anderson began processing and cataloging the books according to library standards. They worked on this project most Monday afternoons, year round. A card catalog was created and visitors were encouraged to use the books when the museum was open. However, since the museum is only open on weekends six months of the year, the HHS Board realized the library was being under utilized.



To better serve the public, the board decided that the museum book collection would be more beneficial if it was able to be read and taken out year round. Hurley library director Kristen Campbell agreed to accept our books and found room for them in what had been the old bank vault.

Volunteers Katherine Chansky and Joan Castka have begun the process of deciding which of the museum’s books can go into circulation and which can only be used in the library. Once this task is completed, the books will be moved across the

street, put into the library’s catalog system which will ready them for the public use daily. This will also free up much needed exhibit space in the museum. A win-win for us all!

MONDAY MORNING MEMOIR

Eagle's Nest Plunge

By Bruce Whistance



As a preschooler living on the southern shore of Long Island I had a pressed-steel Radio Line kick scooter. I would ride it up and down the paved sidewalks around our Babylon home. The scooter had no brakes but none were needed as everything was flat as far as the eye could see. Once I stopped kicking, it would simply coast to a stop.

Just in time to start kindergarten my family moved to our new home on the top of Hurley Mountain. The sound of automobiles in the street and nearby neighbors on our block was now a distant memory. Travels down the concrete sidewalks were replaced by wanderings in the forest with only the sounds of leaves under foot and bird songs breaking the silence. The landscape was now strangely occupying a third dimension. In openings of the forest canopy, views of far off distant places fascinated. Streams flowed rapidly downhill in the steep terrain, and I would catch cool drinks in mid-air at waterfalls. The new mountainous environment was so enchanting that my adaptation was instantaneous, almost.

Eagle's Nest Road leading to our new house was so steep that our family doctor's car radiator boiled over on a house call. Dr. Harder then informed us

that in the future we would need to drive down to his office in the Hurley village for visits. The hill was too steep for a school bus. During the years that I lived there, I was to develop stamina and well-muscled calves walking home from my bus stop at the bottom of the hill.

The only paved surface around our new home on Eagle's Nest was the roadway in front of the house. I tried kicking the scooter around in the backyard but the hard rubber tires bogged down in the grass.

One warm summer day not long after we moved, I decided to try my trusty scooter on the pavement. My mother was visiting our nearest neighbors Jim & Irene Cunniff about 1000 feet down the road. My plan was to ride down to join them. I was excited that I would not have to push the scooter to reach my destination. Their house was at the end of a more level stretch of Eagle's Nest Road. Whatever consideration I gave this plan amounted to no more than thinking that if I was going fast down the steep hill in front of our house, I would surely coast to a slower speed on the more level part of the road. I was about to be enlightened about real world physics!

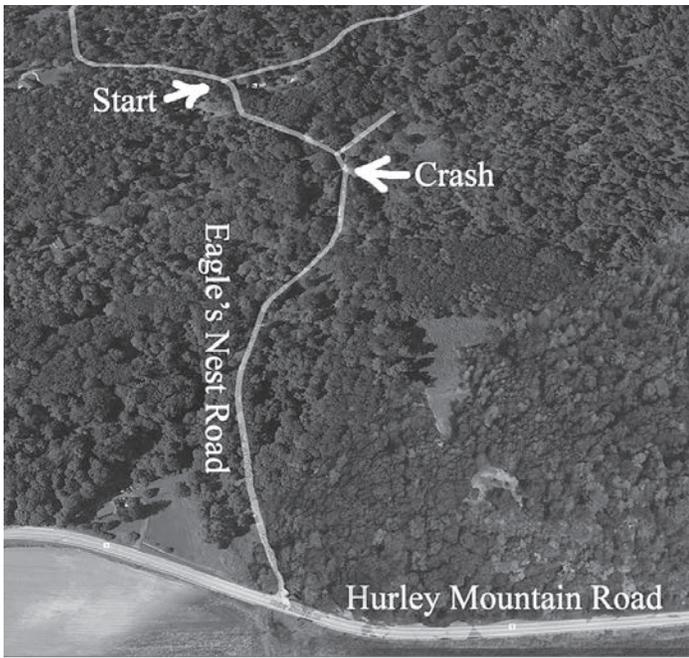
Immediately in front of our house the slope of the roadway becomes very steep. As soon as I turned the scooter downhill, it accelerated at a surprising rate. Before I could react I was traveling much faster than I could run. I knew that I could not get off the scooter without tumbling onto the pavement. The wind in my face felt as if I was sticking my head out of a car window at highway speeds. I thought about the rest of the descent



Bruce Whistance and his parents



Whistance residence on Eagle's Nest Road



of Eagle's Nest Road and concluded it would not be a good idea to ride all the way down the second long steep slope towards Hurley Mountain Road. My hope was that I would slow down enough at the bottom of the first steep grade to get off without serious injury. At the bottom of that first pitch where the road leveled out a little, however, I was still moving much too fast to stop.

I do not remember if I consciously steered off the road to end the misadventure or if the laws of physics simply took over. I flew off the outside of the curve and into a bramble thicket. I ended up lodged so far into the prickly tangle that I could not move. I had numerous bloody scratches from the thorns and ripped clothes. There were only a half dozen families on the road, so no passer-by came to my rescue. No houses were within range to hear my cries for help. I slowly worked my way out to the road trying to limit the number of new scratches. I left the scooter in the brambles and limped down to the Cunniffs' home. My mom was distressed when she saw my battered limbs, but didn't seem particularly surprised that I would attempt such a stunt.

I never saw that scooter again. I had a second scooter from even younger days, and it disappeared, too. In fact scooters were never again discussed in our household.

EPILOG:

My son Bradley is a cycling enthusiast, mathematics teacher, and science communicator. He was curious about how fast I was traveling during my childhood scoot down Eagle's Nest Road. He ran the math to model the fateful ride using data from Strava where details of Eagle's Nest Road are available. His analysis comports with my memories. Here is the plunge as seen by Bradley's model:

Bruce pushes off one-third of a mile uphill from the foot of Eagle's Nest Road. The average gradient to the bottom is about 12%, and the slab of asphalt that he departs from is roughly that: about 11%. The number "11%" may not come across as steep, so let us borrow from our experiences and think about a nearby road with a big and impressive hill. Odds are that this is no more than 6%, which is the point at which road engineers try to limit the grade of new construction. Exceptions to this include roads that follow historic trails or roads on unusually rugged terrain. Almost nothing with grades that exceed 10% for any significant distance is deemed worthy of pavement. Yet, Eagle's Nest Road averages 12% for the length of Bruce's intended journey. The actual descent will average 15%.

The descent starts at 11%, but almost immediately increases to 14%. Less than three seconds after his foot leaves the ground, Bruce has exceeded ten miles per hour. Bailing out is already not a pleasant option. Seven seconds into the descent, he is at eighteen miles per hour, and the grade has now increased to 16%. He somehow negotiates the first corner, a left hand kink in the road. The wind noise starts to pick up and loose clothing and arms begin to waver from the force of air resistance. He now hits the steepest part of the road, where it reaches a maximum of 20% grade. Eleven seconds in, he exceeds 30 mph. This wind now is a violent pillow of air holding Bruce back with about as much force as the force of gravity pulling him down the hill. He hits a maximum of 31 mph having attained terminal velocity, after which the road mercifully levels out to about 10%. The decrease in grade results in Bruce slowing down to about 29 mph, which is still far too fast for the right hand corner he has now reached.

The entire experience has lasted sixteen seconds.

Membership

We are still accepting membership payments for 2022. If you haven't submitted your payment please use the form on the back of the Prologue. You can also go online to hurleyheritagesociety.org and pay.

Thank You! Your continued support helps to support our mission.



Museum Shop News

We want to thank the many volunteers who have staffed the shop this season. Without their help, we couldn't remain open, and we have been busy! What's noticeable is how many visitors who grew up in Hurley come back to see their old neighborhood. They remember it fondly and are so happy to see that Main Street is relatively unchanged. They also buy gift shop items to take home to remind them of Hurley, and they become members of HHS to keep up on local news and events.

The gift shop has mugs, shopping bags, caps, and t-shirts with Hurley motifs, along with mementos of Hurley when it was a big sweet corn growing area. There are Dutch items both new and vintage featuring some of Holland's iconic symbols — tulips, wooden shoes, and windmills.

We carry some of Wendy Bowen's porcelain houses from around the country and world as well as Hurley's stone houses.

New to the shop are fine framed prints of some of Winslow Homer's Hurley paintings from our exhibit. They are beautiful, reasonably priced, ready to hang on your walls! From September through December, these prints are on sale at a 20% discount. If you're a member of HHS you get a 10% discount on all items!

We look forward to seeing you on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. through the end of October. The shop will be open again on Thanksgiving weekend for its annual Holiday Sale. We are now accepting the following items for the sale: holiday items and decorations, new gifts and toys, vintage items. Please contact Joan Castka (845-331-4852) or Kathy McMahon (845-340-0051) for drop-off information.



SCARECROWS

Yes, it is still summer, but we are planning ahead. Once again we will be having our scarecrow contest on the front lawn of the museum. So, start thinking about your designs. We will be sending out more information through our website and Constant Contact. FYI, we will not be having our Ghost Walk this year. We are in the process of looking for new material and re-vamping for next year.



Seeking Volunteers

Do you have a passion for Hurley and local history? Like to get involved and contribute to our community? We want to hear from you! The Hurley Heritage Society is seeking volunteers and new board members. Founded almost 50 years ago, our mission is to preserve, protect, educate and celebrate the Town of Hurley's unique heritage. The HHS is an all volunteer organization. Our activities include ongoing public lectures on Hurley history and culture, hosting public events such as Hurley Heritage Day, hosts walking tours of Main Street, operate the Hurley Museum that is free and open to the public, and act as stewards of Hurley's unique history and heritage including maintaining a large collection of historical materials and documents pertaining to Hurley. You can volunteer in many ways including helping with events, helping in the shop, becoming a guide/docent/greeter, writing and photography, coordinating and planning, developing exhibits, social media and promotions, collections maintenance and archiving, or just willing to lend a hand, the HHS has a place for you!

Seeking New Board Members

The HHS currently has openings on our all-volunteer board. As a hands-on board, members must attend monthly meetings, and assist to ensure the smooth operations of the museum and organization. Some familiarity with the organization and Hurley is helpful. The HHS is receiving board membership inquiries until September 15. If you are interested in being a volunteer or have questions, contact us at: dale7228@aol.com. If you are interested in joining the board or have questions, contact us at: bzell1950@aol.com.

*"You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give."*

— Winston Churchill



Children's Story Time & Tea Party

Our Children's Story Time and Tea Party was a wonderful event that we held with our neighbor, the Hurley Library, on July 16. Attendees read stories and enjoyed scrumptious treats and tea! All who came had a tea-riffic time!

Society member, Grace del Aguila, helped set up for the tea and posed with a tea cup before the event!

Hurley Heritage Society
PO Box 1661
Hurley, NY 12443
Tel. (845) 338-1661

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HHS
Autumn
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2022



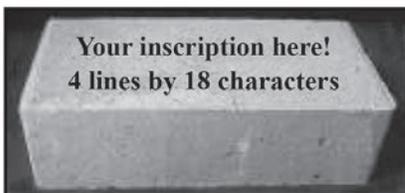
October 20-30

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

HHS Heritage Walk

Make a donation of \$125 to the Society to show your support of the museum by creating a brick in your family's name — or to honor someone close to you. The proceeds will be used for capital repairs to the Museum and your brick will be added to the Heritage Walk.

The inscription may be composed with as many as four lines of eighteen characters. If you are interested, please contact Wally Cook at 845-338-2193 or email to wally.cook@gmail.com.



Hurley Heritage Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single membership | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership | \$275.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (Annual) | \$150.00 |
| Additional donation | \$ _____ |

Dues and donations are tax deductible.

Send payment to:
Hurley Heritage Society
PO Box 1661
Hurley, NY 12443