

## Inside this Issue

Save These Dates! . . . . .	1
President's Message: 2024-25 in Review . . . . .	2
Remembering Mary Ann Banzeweski . . . . .	3
Thank You to All of our Supporters . . . . .	3
New Board Member . . . . .	3
Welcome, New Neighbors . . . . .	3
NHS in the Press . . . . .	4
2025-26 Board of Directors . . . . .	4



### WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Scan the QR code at right to answer a few short questions — Rank us on what we do great, not-so-great, and share any other ideas you'd like us to hear!

To help us prepare our next 3-5 year Strategic Plan, if possible, **please complete by January 31, 2026**



DEC. 2025 NEWSLETTER | P.O. Box 489, Naples, NY 14512

NHSNYinfo@gmail.com | [www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org)

# \* 2024-2025 YEAR IN REVIEW \*



Above L to R, highlights from 2025: Noah Earle pulled tough duty as a Chocolate Cake Contest judge (Well, somebody's gotta do it!); Wayne Buchar giving a presentation about the Underground Railroad to Harley School students; volunteer Linda Strauss-Jones and Board Member Joan Luther at the Grape Pie Contest; volunteers Rich Kolacz and Donna LaCourse doing restoration work at Fairview Cemetery; Charlie Kingsley re-glazing windows at the Cleveland House. (photos by Trish Lambiase, Ken Poole, Blanche Warner)

**Naples  
Chocolate  
Cake Contest**

**February 7th**  
**Saturday, 1-4pm**  
@ Morgan Hose Building,  
22 Mill Street, Naples

## Looking ahead to 2026...

*SAVE THESE DATES & WATCH FOR DETAILS TO COME*

### March 5th - 7th

#### Naples Women's Weekend

At the Morgan Hose Building we will have artwork on display from our collection by women from Naples and the surrounding area. On Sunday we will offer a special crafting workshop — Times and more details TBA.

### March 28th

#### How to Research your House's History

**Wilma Townsend** from the Ontario County Historical Society and **Valerie Klindt** from the Ontario County Records Dept. will present information about how to look up your home's deed, abstract, and more.



# Year in Review: 2024-2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Trish Lambiase and Jun Liu, tending the Cleveland House gardens



Ken Poole leading a tour at Fairview Cemetery



Wayne Buchar's balancing beam act at the Naples Red Mill

The past fiscal year at the Naples Historical Society (November 2024 - October 2025) was busy! Below is an attempt to boast about it all, with apologies in advance for anything forgotten — it was a full year!

## Events

All of our newer annual fundraisers continued: the 4th annual Cookie Sale & Holiday Boutique, our 4th Chocolate Cake Contest, our Spring Raffle of a “Small CSA Share” from Schenk Homestead Farms, and the Naples Grape Festival, back stronger than ever after the early pandemic years. We also held 5 pop-up “Treasure Sales” throughout the year.

Several special events celebrated Naples history: “The Big Reveal” of a Grape Pie historic marker at Memorial Town Hall (which gained national attention — see article on page 4), the Cleveland House “Plant Give and Take” in preparation for foundation work, and “Frederick Douglass Day,” celebrating Douglass's Naples connection, co-sponsored with the Naples Library, Bristol Valley Theater, FLX Music Supply, and Fruition Seeds.

## Programs

We hosted several guest presenters: South Bristol Historian Beth Thomas on “Bristol's Suffragist Emily Parmely Collins”; a Historic Tax Credit Workshop co-sponsored with the Preservation League of NY, the Landmark Society, and the Village of Naples; the Grape Pie Making Class by Meghanne Freivald; and a Headstone Repair Class by Dave Bloom.

Our original educational programs included: a presentation on Ephraim Cleveland and the Cleveland House by President Trish Lambiase at a regional DAR meeting; Past President Wayne Buchar hosting 8th grade students from the Harley School at the Maxfield Inn to discuss William Marks and the Underground Railroad; and Naples Historian Ken Poole's programs on “The Life and Art of Naples Artist Jane Loomis Gould,” plus a talk and exhibition on artist Ira Randall, co-sponsored with the Bristol Hills Historical Society. Ever-popular tours of the Cleveland House, Memorial Town Hall, and Fairview Cemetery continued throughout the year.

## Other Projects

We have been working with the Finger Lakes Visitors Connection for the past several years on their “Virtual Museum” project, now in its final stages. You will soon see QR codes on some of Naples's historic markers linking to more information on the topic of each marker. We are also updating our self-guided walking tour of historic

Naples and have begun recording new audio narrations for each site.

Other projects included 3 newsletters; 2 informational booklets (on the Sutton String Band and Jane Loomis); and signage about native plantings around the Cleveland House. We awarded scholarships to two 2025 NCS graduates and presented two Historic Preservation Awards to local recipients.

## Board Activities

Between monthly board and committee meetings, members enjoyed some leisure activities: hosting the first VIP member reception at the Maxfield Inn this summer, and a “behind the scenes tour” of Hometown Wine Company to see the adaptive reuse of the former Cleveland House Carriage House.

Preservation work on the Naples Red Mill and Cleveland House remains a major commitment, whether through volunteer labor, materials, or fundraising. (\*See our summer newsletter for highlights of this year's progress; past issues are on our website under the “About” tab at [naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/newsletter-archive](https://naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/newsletter-archive).)

Collections/Archives — The Morgan Hose Building is open every Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The “Archive Angels” welcome researchers and visitors, accept ephemera to add to our collections, maintain history bulletin boards at Caruso's Café, and answer website and e-mail inquiries. Work in the Morgan Hose Building this year totaled more than 585 volunteer hours.

At this year's Annual Board Meeting, multiple trustees renewed their commitments. Renewing three-year terms: Blanche Warner, Cindy Scoda, Kim Torpey, and Jeff Wells. Renewing two-year officer terms: Trish Lambiase, President; Blanche Warner, Vice President; Cindy Scoda, Secretary.

## Financials

Since becoming President in 2021, one of my goals has been to ensure that the Naples Historical Society maintains a solid financial standing. A yearly challenge is the unpredictability of Grape Festival proceeds, shared with Naples Rotary. We were fortunate this past year to receive record funds, enabling early payoff of an EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) COVID loan.

The sale of the Carriage House enabled us to pay off the Cleveland House mortgage and start a renovation account with nearly \$93,000. We were able to invest in CD's with funds from our capital

continued on page 4

**Our Mission:** The mission of the Naples Historical Society is to promote an interest in the history of Naples, New York and the surrounding area by maintaining and displaying historical collections and exhibits, and by providing educational programs.

**Our Vision:** The vision of the Naples Historical Society is to spread a love of the Naples community by preserving our local history, discovering new knowledge together, and sharing our resources with all.

# Thank you to all of our supporters in 2025

We are grateful for all the support we have received this year — financially as well as through generous sharing of time, energy and talents. We truly appreciate the interest, enthusiasm, dedication and kindness that our supporters bring. Below is a list of specifically targeted donations, representing one aspect of our supporters. We also want to acknowledge that there are many more folks who help us to achieve our mission goals in different ways as well.

## "Bill's Dream" Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign continues for the restoration of the Naples Red Mill, to realize Bill Vierhile's dream of creating a Naples History Museum.

**BILL VIERHILE LEVEL**  
(\$5,000+)

**PLATINUM LEVEL**  
(\$1,000 - \$4,999)  
Carol & Ross Thompson

**GOLD LEVEL**  
(\$500 - \$999)  
Marilyn B. Cornish,  
in memory of C. Samuel  
Cornish, Jr. and his  
parents Claude Samuel  
and Bessie Cornish, Sr.

**SILVER LEVEL**  
(\$250 - \$499)

**BRONZE LEVEL**  
(\$100 - \$249)  
George Fleischman  
William Glave  
Boo & John Herman

As an entirely volunteer run, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the donations we receive are crucial to continuing our mission to promote Naples history - its stories, lessons, and culture - and share it with all through our collections, exhibits, and educational programs.

Currently our most pressing priority is the preservation of our buildings, key for maintaining our collections and archives, which in turn are the foundation of all our other activities that fulfill our mission.

**MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:** Click the DONATE button on our website or scan the QR code below to visit our Zeffy form. As a non-profit, we are not charged any processing fees by Zeffy. This allows the entire amount of your donation to go to the Naples Historical Society. On the form you can indicate to which interest you'd like your donation to be directed. (\*TIP: When prompted to add funds to donate to Zeffy, please feel free to choose "Other.")



**SEND IN A DONATION VIA USMAIL:** Send a check payable to "Naples Historical Society" to P.O. Box 489, Naples, NY 14512.

## Specifically Targeted Donations

**CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** for the restoration of all of our buildings:  
Diane Reynolds

**CLEVELAND HOUSE RESTORATION**  
Shawn Lacey

**NAPLES CEMETERIES**  
Felica Flores, in honor of  
Rachel Hooker Watkins  
Lisa Miller

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND**  
Owen Guile, in honor of  
Mary Ann Banzsewski  
Tom Harradine & Judy Patchen,  
in celebration of Ken & Cindy  
Poole's 25th anniversary  
Elizabeth Hawks  
Mary Makepeace  
C. Tycho & Marie Howle

A special **thank you** to  
**Valley Mechanical** and  
Zach Collmer for donating  
their services to replace a  
cracked drainpipe in  
the Cleveland House

*Year end donations in honor of  
loved ones are a great gift idea!*

## In Remembrance of Mary Ann Banzsewski

The Naples Historical Society has lost a staunch supporter and former Secretary of our Board of Directors. **Mary Ann Banzsewski**,



82, passed away at her home in Naples on October 27, 2025. Mary Ann was a society member for several years, and served as our Secretary for 4 years. She also volunteered in the Archives at the Naples Library (photo, left) where we had a lot of fun while we worked...she had a lively sense of humor. We will miss her dearly.

— Blanche Warner

## Welcome, New Neighbors

**Naples**  
**OPEN CUPBOARD, INC**  
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

@ 24 Mill Street (next to Morgan Hose Building)

Former home to Finger Lakes Dental, the space next door to our NHS headquarters has been transformed into a much-needed new home for Naples Open

Cupboard/Open Closet — which comprises a free Food Pantry on the lower level (follow signs between Morgan Hose and the former Tin Shop), free clothing and home goods to anyone in need; and upstairs (enter from Mill St.), the Thrift & Thrive thrift store, offering gently used clothing, accessories, and small home goods at very affordable prices, with 100% of the proceeds going directly back to the Naples Open Cupboard. For open hours & information about how you can donate or support their initiatives, visit [www.naplesopencupboard.org](http://www.naplesopencupboard.org)



**HOMETOWN**  
WINE COMPANY

**203 North Main Street (next to the Cleveland House)**

Sara and Brian Hulbert purchased the former Carriage House from the society in October 2024. Likely built as a barn for horses and buggies serving the Cleveland House, the structure has had many later uses, most recently as a quilt shop. Its beautifully renovated interior preserves original beams and floors while opening the space for tastings and gatherings. Drawing on wine-industry experience from around the country, the Hulberts partner with farmers, friends, and colleagues to source grapes and offer "wines from coast to coast." All wines are produced by Hometown Wine Company, including limited production here in Naples. Learn more about their tastings, wine club, and other offerings at [www.hometownwineco.com](http://www.hometownwineco.com)

## MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



### Kimberly Erb

We are pleased to welcome **Kimberly Erb** as our newest member of the Naples Historical Society Board of Directors. You may also recognize her from Naples Five Star Bank, where she assisted the NHS with our accounts in recent years, making a comfortable transition during the past year to become our new Treasurer.

Can you tell us a little about yourself, Kim? *I grew up in Hammondsport, N.Y. but moved to Naples when I was 15. I have 4 children who go to Naples school. I love to hunt and to be in nature.*

In one hundred years, what do you hope the Naples Historical Society will tell folks about what Naples was like today? *I hope in a 100 years NHS will tell everyone how caring and good the folks in Naples are, and how the town is like family and helps one another in times of need.*

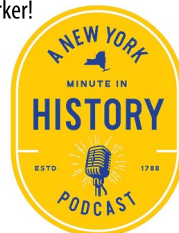


# Naples Historical Society makes National & International Press!



ALBANY, NY - Just in time for Thanksgiving, WAMC/Northeast Public Radio's most recent episode of their nationally syndicated podcast "A New York Minute in History" featured our own President Trish Lambiasi and John French (Rotarian and President of the Naples Grape Festival LLC), talking about our new Grape Pie marker!

NPR's website describes the podcast: "winner of a Regional



Edward R. Murrow Award and a New York State Broadcasters Association Award, ...tells the unique tales of New Yorkers throughout American history ... with the state's hundreds of historical markers as a guide." By coincidence, one of the podcast's journalists who interviewed Trish and John had grown up in Wayland and was well familiar with the Naples Grape Festival and grape pies. Listen to the Grape Pie episode here:

[www.wamc.org/podcast/a-new-york-minute-in-history/2025-12-01/the-legendary-grape-pie-of-naples](http://www.wamc.org/podcast/a-new-york-minute-in-history/2025-12-01/the-legendary-grape-pie-of-naples)



NAPLES, ITALY - Earlier this year, the society received a research enquiry from an author in Naples, Italy - preparing to celebrate their 2,500th anniversary! After some fun correspondence back & forth, an Italian press release from this November announced, "The authors, Mike Pilla, journalist and director of *Patrimonio Italiano TV*, and Eros Santoro, present a groundbreaking work that celebrates 2,500 years of Neapolitan history: a thriller novel paired with a magazine, distributed as a free ebook worldwide - *The Veiled Skull*, a work that unites Naples, Italy and Naples, NY. ...where, curiously, there is a church dedicated to Saint Januarius." Learn more about the project and the novel's plot at [www.ilteschiovelato.it](http://www.ilteschiovelato.it)

*Year in Review / President's Message, continued from page 2*

reserve/renovation accounts which have generated more than \$1,500 in interest. Capital reserve funds will be used in 2026 for ongoing renovations of the Naples Red Mill and the Cleveland House.

We depend on and appreciate all donations, which support our mission and the maintenance of our historic buildings (more details on page 3).

## Membership

Last November we introduced a new "VIP" membership category (Very Important Preservationist). The \$250 dues go to the Capital Reserve Fund for preservation of our historic buildings. VIPs receive free admission to all programs and are invited to an annual VIP reception in a historic location. We welcomed 15 VIP members this year, adding \$3,750 to the Capital Reserve Fund. Our Individual/Family/Junior \$25 membership brought in 16 new members. Membership has remained consistent for the past several years, averaging about 150 members. **New members are needed and welcome.**

## Volunteers

People have always been the backbone of our organization. We are grateful for dedicated board members and volunteers who donated over 689 recorded hours and an estimated 1,000+ unrecorded hours on projects, events, committees, and social media. Thank you to all who lent their talents this past year. In 2026, I invite you to attend our programs and events, volunteer your time to help with events, or donate to support our important work of preserving Naples history for the future.

## Future Plans

Looking ahead to 2026 and America 250, we hope to complete porch renovations at the Cleveland House and install new exhibits celebrating Naples's Revolutionary War settlers. With more projects underway, we are closer to realizing additional goals and have applied for a grant from DHPSNY (Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for NY) for professional guidance in developing our next three-to-five-year strategic plan.

**Trish Lambiasi**

Naples Historical Society President



## 2025-2026 Officers & Board Members

President:	Directors:
Trish Lambiasi	Wayne Buchar
Vice President:	Jun Liu
Blanche Warner	Joan Luther
Secretary:	Ken Poole
Cindy Scoda	Tom Salviski
Treasurer:	Michael Terry
Kimberly Erb	Kim Torpey
	Jeff Wells



on YouTube:  
Naples Historical Society Naples, NY



on Instagram:  
@naples\_ny\_historical\_society



on Facebook: @naplesnyhistory  
"Naples NY Historical Society" &  
"Cleveland House Museum - Naples NY History"

*Thank you to member **Alan Stone**, who sponsored the printing of this issue of our newsletter. Please let us know if you would like to sponsor the printing of our next newsletter for \$225.00*