



# The Elm Tree

## THE LOUDONVILLE WALL

### Time Capsule

Unlike Albany's time capsule under the statue of General Philip Schuyler, our time capsule will be a little easier to unearth in fifty years. On December 1st, a small group of GLA members and family gathered on the Triangle where we placed our container of Loudonville memorabilia into the ground. The weather-proof container was kindly donated to us by Bowen and Parker Bros. Funeral Home. Some of the items included are three books, Traveling the Loudon Plank Road, another detailing the history of Schuyler Meadows Club, and a chronicle of Wolfert's Roost Country Club. There is a Covid test kit, Town Supervisor Medal, Pruy House newsletter, a recent issue of the Times Union and the old wooden letters from our former wall. For those who would like to join GLA in fifty years, we have not forgotten to include a membership and dues form!

President Mary Brizzell made some burial remarks and after promises from the children that they would return in fifty years to participate in the unveiling, our time capsule was officially buried!



It was around 2015 when we noticed the brick wall at the Loudonville Triangle was beginning to fall into disrepair. Prior to the early 1980's, the triangle was a messy bus turnaround. The town of Colonie recognized this eyesore and given that up to 25,000 cars pass the intersection daily, they asked the GLA to beautify the parcel of land. With help from the Men's Garden Club of Albany and the Fort Orange Garden Club, together they made the city bus turnaround into The Triangle, now with gardens and trees which live between utility poles and road signs. The brick wall was erected some time after the transformation and lasted roughly thirty years. Like everything, costs have increased and in the meantime the GLA had also acquired Loudon Green to maintain. We had a lot to prioritize, but through the diligent efforts of the last three GLA Presidents, our goal has finally been reached!



Thank you, Skyview Landscapes!

### Wall Donors

**\$5000** Candace K. Wier

#### **\$1000 - \$2500**

Bill & Mary Brizzell  
 Richard & Kelly Cummings  
 E. Stewart Jones, Jr. &  
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 Frank & Sandra Kiepora  
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#### **up to \$499**

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# President's Message



Dear GLA Members,

As Winter begins to subside and Spring is on the horizon, our GLA Board is looking back at all we have accomplished and looking forward to more good things to come. Of course,

nothing is possible without the cooperation and support of you, our members!

Some great memories of the past year included the Spring tribute to Sharon Holub, our Annual Meeting at M.M. Hayes (compliments of Mike Hayes and Family), and the Fourth of July Salute at the Loudon Green highlighted by our Town Supervisor, Peter G. Crummey, reading the Declaration of Independence followed by patriotic music along with hot dogs and soda. Our Fall Family Fest on Pruyn House grounds drew a record crowd under unseasonably warm skies. The annual Tree Lighting event took place on the Sunday after Thanksgiving with joy-filled singing and an exciting visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus who then joined us for pizza and soda. The Holiday Party

at Schuyler Meadows was a smashing success as the Committee mixed things up and provided a very festive and exciting celebration.

Now we are in 2024 and are thrilled with our new Loudonville stone wall and sign which was commemorated with a time capsule to be opened in 50 years. We wish a very special and sincere thank you to all our donors who made all of these things possible.

It is time to concentrate on the amenities in the Triangle and Loudon Green. We will be evaluating the landscaping, the gazebo, and the Cannon Wall with an eye to removing, pruning, and adding to the greens.

Of course we will continue to be involved with the development of our Town and cooperate with the leaders as we appreciate being partners with them. Their support enables us to accomplish much.

Hoping to see you along the way in 2024!

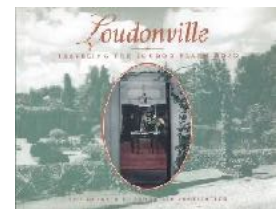
Sincerely,  
*Mary E. Brizzell*

## GLA Board

- Mary Brizzell *President*
- Kevin M. Bronner, Jr. *Vice President*
- Mary Durgeon *Treasurer*
- Carolyn Martel *Secretary*
- Darcy Harding *Past President*

- Lonnie D. Clar
- Audrey Cunningham
- Martha Fashouer
- Kevin A. Franklin
- Bruce Gembala
- Lynne Jonquieres
- Sandra Kiepura
- Mary Elizabeth Mahar
- Greta McNamara
- Sarah Mukerji
- Louis W. Pierro
- Teresa Rossi
- Susan O. Smith
- Thomas Suraci
- Kim Swidler
- Chris Wessell

## Loudonville's History: *Read All About It!*



GLA's book Loudonville: Traveling the Loudon Plank Road features Loudonville's development and describes twelve historic homes along Loudon Road with interior and exterior photos from the past.

As a resident of Loudonville, you should own this unique book! Proceeds benefit the projects of the GLA, whose purpose is to enhance the historic character of Loudonville. GLA also sponsors several community events throughout the year, and is currently revitalizing the wall and its surroundings at the Loudonville Triangle.

To purchase a book for \$30, you may send a check payable to The Greater Loudonville Association (PO Box 11144 Loudonville NY 12211) or pay by credit card via the GLA website at [www.greaterloudonville.org](http://www.greaterloudonville.org). The book will be delivered to you.

## Ride-Sharing in Loudonville

One day I was driving, and the next day I was not - and for a rather lengthy period of time while my ankle healed. A point came when I needed transportation within Loudonville everyday, and suddenly the ride-sharing app I used only on vacations became something I needed in my own neighborhood!

I took twenty-one rides in Loudonville this fall. After much mental energy spent on my and my mother's healing bones, I decided to redirect some of that focus and take advantage of my 6-minute rides to see what I could learn from my drivers.

Each morning a car would pull up within ten minutes of my request and I'd carefully load my conversation-starter in the form of an enormous boot, crutches and usually a bag or two into the backseat. By the time I was wedged in and buckled, I usually knew if they were talkers.

- My first driver had also been pulled over by her dog and injured. She was empathetic and enthusiastically talked to me about her dog.
- Steve wanted to show me his own disability, and quickly unveiled his tattooed arm which ended at his elbow. He was in a motorcycle accident two years ago - went to Samaritan where "they cut it off". He left the hospital early against all advice, and was mowing his lawn the following day.
- One driver had gone to Siena in the 1970s and as a side job he drove a local boy to tennis once a week. My driver wasn't surprised years later to read in the TU of this same grown boy partaking in political wrongdoings.
- Two drivers were from Nepal. One was very excited when I told him my daughter had hiked the Annapurna mountain range, and he talked about the area for the whole ride. The other spoke no English so my same opener got just a smile.
- A man from Senegal (which is directly across the ocean from NY, he told me), came to NYC for an IT degree and now works for the state and drives in his spare time. He spoke of Senegal's democracy and current shady leadership, but hopes to retire there.
- One driver was from Bangladesh, and told me about its split from Pakistan by way of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.
- A driver from Ghana started working in NYC and came up here to work for the postal service. He could not believe a little girl was kidnapped around here, referring to the child who was taken from the Moreau

State Park. He said in his country that occurs all the time, but here shouldn't happen!

- I rode with Michael twice. On my second ride I was able to thank him for his prior weather report, and ask him about his grandchildren. He then told me proudly that he had just cooked for 300 people the night before which raised \$19K for a local family going through a health scare.
- Oliver kindly moved his seat way up for my big boot - as many drivers did. However no talking as his Spanish rap music was on the louder side. When the light turned green at Spring Street, his manual Impreza was not zippy enough for the Audi behind us and we got a honk. Luckily Oliver was unruffled as he kept bobbing his head to the music while the impatient Audi passed us on Loudon Road. That non-aggressiveness I'd reward with a good tip.

Most of my rides arrived in under ten minutes, and the cars were clean and tidy. Things to keep in mind: trip cost is higher when traffic is heavier and more drivers are in demand. Always be sure the car make and plate, and drivers's photo which are displayed on your screen match the car that stops to pick you up. The driver should also use your name before you get in. Sit in the back passenger side so you can watch your driver and their mounted phone with the GPS.

This is a wonderful service and should be considered by those who may need help temporarily like I did, or by older residents who are turning in their car keys. It is also a smart option if you're going to a party or dinner where you know you will be imbibing...let's do our part to maintain public safety, *and* help keep Loudon Green unscathed! There have been at least three drunk drivers who have launched their vehicles into the park, making an expensive mess to repair. With just a few clicks on your phone you can reach your destination safely, inexpensively and if you are so inclined, you may learn something new!

*Carolyn Martel*



## Greater Loudonville Association

*Neighbors Dedicated to Protecting and Improving the Character of our Historic and Ever Changing Residential Community*

[www.GreaterLoudonville.org](http://www.GreaterLoudonville.org)

### Annual Dues:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> President's List \$350    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50     | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$750              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100    | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1,000 and up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$250 |  |

Please specify  New Member  Renewal

### Yes, I'd like to help! Please contact me about these activities:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Elm Tree (newsletter)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Relations             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loudon Green/Triangle maintenance           | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning/Coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town Government (monitoring Planning Board) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                 |

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write Email Address Again: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to "Greater Loudonville Association" and mail to:

Greater Loudonville Association  
 PO Box 11144  
 Loudonville, NY 12211

Membership contributions (dues) are tax-deductible within the full extent of the law.

## *Holiday Party at Schuyler Meadows*

Schuyler Meadows Country club transformed on December 16, 2023 into an intimate homey setting for the Greater Loudonville Association annual Holiday party. The fireplaces were aglow and the eclectic group buzzed with laughter, conversation and holiday cheer. Magician Jim Snack entertained the crowd with magic tricks, while pianist Max Capland played holiday tunes to enhance the mood. Scrumptious holiday food for the evening consisted of passed canapes, charcuterie boards, oysters on the half shell, a beef carving station, roasted chicken, as well as two open bars.

Thank you to the team of Chris Wessell , Kristi Dariano, Sue Smith, Kevin Bronner, Audrey Cunningham, Martha Fashouer, Carolyn Martel and Marcia Codling for bringing the magical evening together.

The fundraiser holiday party raised over \$6,000 toward the Greater Loudonville Association mission of preserving, maintaining and enhancing the historical character of the area.

Cannot wait to continue the magic in 2024. Stay tuned for date and location!

### **Many thanks to our sponsors!**

#### **AMARYLLIS**

Steven J. Girvin  
E. Stewart and Kimberly Sanger Jones  
Candace King Weir  
Chris and Lauren Wessell

#### **HOLLY**

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Skyview Landscapes, Inc.  
Robert and Kim Swidler

#### **MISTLETOE**

Marcia Codling  
Jim and Carolyn Martel





## *Fall Family Fest at the Buhrmaster Barn*



Many thanks to Teresa Rossi for organizing one of our favorite events again! This is a fun day for all and GLA board members pitch in. Parking management, pumpkin and cider/donut donations, face painting and more. It was a banner year for attendance!

# Holiday Tree Lighting



**Greater Loudonville Association**  
PO Box 11144  
Loudonville NY 12211-0144

Non-profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit 720  
Albany NY 12211

or current resident

DATED MATERIAL

## *Welcome New Members!*

Don Reisinger  
Ann McGrath and Morgan Gmelch  
Ryan and Sarah Conway  
Nicholas and Lori Salamack  
Ira Bloom and Margaret Roberts  
David and Kristi Daviano  
Robert and Sharon Lobel  
Morgan Gmelch and Ann McGrath  
Nicole A.Valente



Bill Brizzell perfecting the placement of the time capsule

## *Annual Meeting*

Thursday, May 9th  
Siena College  
Gioia Hall  
Admissions Building  
Spring Street  
Leslie Couch Prize  
awarded  
Refreshments