

FIESTA SWEET POTATO SOUP

by Ginny Brozowski

- 1 pkg. fully cooked Kielbasa links, chopped
- 1 can yams, cut into smaller pieces
- 1 large onion chopped
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 cans chicken broth (15 oz)
- 1 can diced tomatoes with mild chilies (15 oz)
- 1 can black beans rinsed and drained (15oz)
- 2 tbsp minced fresh cilantro (optional)

In a large saucepan sauté the sausage, onion and pepper in oil until onion is tender. Add cumin; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in broth, yams, tomatoes, and beans. Bring to a boil and stir. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10 minutes and then add the cilantro if desired. Garnish servings with sour cream and green onions (optional). Yield 6 servings.

GRANDMA'S ORANGE CAKE

by Marlene Everett

- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup sour milk (add white vinegar to regular milk)
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup raisins (ground)
- 1 whole medium orange (grind with rind)
- 1/2 cup walnuts chopped

Mix margarine, sugar and add beaten egg. Mix soda with flour and add alternately with sour milk. Add the raisin-orange mixture. Add walnuts. Grease and flour 9x12 pan and bake at 375 for 30 minutes.

Otsego County Historical Society Newsletter

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From the OCHS Board President

As the year draws to a close it is a time of reflection. We had many positive events this year such as our 25th museum anniversary celebration, the walking tours of the historical facts of Gaylord, and our successful (1st Place!) float in the Alpenfest parade to name a few.

The walking tours were presented by a group of members involved in History Matters who are looking into the stories that go with the houses and businesses in our community. A piggyback to that was the cemetery walk that Gaylord Community Productions presented in October.

But as it happens many times sorrow comes along with joy. The passing of our president Pam Duczkowski was a very low point for all of us at the museum. She was a strong, dedicated supporter of the historical society and continued even in her passing with her request that memorial donations be given to us. We also received a memorial donation from Sue Fuelling upon the passing of her father. Because of these generous memorials we are ending our year financially sound.

Another unhappy change was the resignation of long time board member Ginny Brozowski. She served as president and treasurer, managed the gift shop, and gave countless hours of faithful service to the museum. She has promised to continue volunteering but her presence on the board is greatly missed.

New members have joined the board. They are Brian Pearson, Margaret Albert, and Leo Sensabaugh. We are looking forward to working together with them.

Looking ahead the History Matters group is working to uncover more of our rich history. There are plans to have more involvement from other community members. If this interests you let us know.

My personal request for the coming year is that all of you make an effort to visit the museum and consider bringing your out of town guests to see us when you're looking for an interesting activity. I also would encourage members to become more active by volunteering. Commit to once a month as a greeter. All you need for the job is a smile and a friendly greeting.

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a positive New Year.

Roseann Kujawa

Otsego County Historical Society MEMBERS RECOGNITION

Please remember to support the following local businesses that support the Otsego County Historical Society through their business memberships.

Albies Foods, Inc	Gaylord Herald Times
Alpine Chocolat Haus	Hickerson Floor & Tile Haus
Alpine Title & Escrow	Hogan's Jewelers
Applegate Building, LLC (James Quick House)	Home Depot
Arlene's Diner	Jay's Sporting Goods
Awakon Federal Credit Union	Kirtland University Center
Bennethum's Northern Inn	Gaylord/MTEC
Bensing, Cotant & Menkes	LaSeniorita
Call of the Wild	M & M Excavating
Catt Development	Mark V. Nearing, DDS
Chemical Bank	McNamara Insurance Agency
Chuck's Electric	Michigan Insurance Agency
ComForCare	Nelson Funeral Home
Community Fin. Credit Union	Northland Area Credit Union
Diesel Freak/Decal Freak	Otsego Co. Comm. on Aging
Edward Jones	Paxton Resources, LLC
Estelle Farms	Seniors Helping Seniors
Gaylord Community Schools	Sidock Group
Gaylord Comm. Funeral Home	Smith Realty Group
Gaylord Eye Care Center	Wade Trim

The Otsego County Historical Society expresses our sincere thanks to everyone who has made a commitment to preserving our county's past and supporting our mission and downtown museum.

A special recognition to our Pioneer, Benefactor and Patron level members:

Pioneers

- Ed & Judi Etelle
- Sue Fuelling
- Scott & Janice Lampert
- Dr. Mark & Deb Nearing
- Philip & Monette Thorrez

Benefactors

- Richard Barber
- Greg & Rhonda Behnke
- John & Dalores Burau
- Marlene Everett James
- Bob & Cheryl Halter
- Doug & Sherry Johnson
- Lady Susan Reickert
- Mary Sanders
- Dale Smith
- Mike & Barb Switalski

Patrons

- Emma Backenstose
- Chuck & Pat Berlin
- Richard & Carol Cook
- Harry Dreffs
- J. David Duczkowski
- Casimer & Alice Dzwik
- Jerry and Beuna Fox
- John & Darlene Hendrickson
- John & Pegi Jenkins
- Marvin & Nancy Kelso
- Ronald & Linda Kirkpatrick
- Stan & Kay Kujawa
- Herman & Dorothy Miller
- Frank & Joan Nephew
- Dianne Newman
- Don & Cathy Nutt
- Craig & Berni Seidell
- V. Carl Shaner
- Suzanne Stewart
- Dean & Gloria Varty
- Roy & Cleveann Wolf
- Will & Carol Wright



For the twelfth year, OCHS participated in the Leadership Otsego County program, presenting the History Module in October. This year's group of ten LOC students began the day at the former Main Street Market (Audrain Hardware), which included a panel (Sherry Johnson, Dar Mongeau, John Jenkins and Wayne Wyrembelski) discussing leadership legends and toured Gaylord and Waters. They concluded the day at the Museum learning about agricultural history in the county from Judy Estelle and Barb Fleming.

Photo by Jim Akans



Winter Hours at the Downtown Gaylord Historical Museum

Museum Will Be Open
on Saturdays
10am-2pm
Closed Jan & Feb
320 W. Main Street in Gaylord
(989) 732-4568

BECOME AN OCHS MEMBER! Visit: www.otsego.org/ochs

Join Our History Matters Team

We are looking for energetic volunteers to join our team of "History Detectives". If you have a genuine interest in our local history, can commit to approximately 12 hours per month and are willing to share your knowledge in creative ways... please consider signing up for History Matters. We will begin with an orientation session on March 10, 2018. More details are available on our web site; www.otsego.org/ochs. Click on the History Matters tab in the left column of the home page.

Otsego Historical Society's Endowment Fund Doubles



Photo by Jim Akans

The Otsego County Historical Society (OCHS) presented an over \$9,700 check to their endowment fund at the Otsego County Community Foundation (OCCF) on Wednesday, October 18. This amazing contribution was made possible through a donation to the Society (in this same amount) from the estate of William H Bean, father of OCHS Board Member, Sue Fuelling. This donation nearly doubles the OCHS endowment fund, bringing the total over \$20,000. Shown here, Otsego County Historical Society Board Members present the check to Karin Beyer of the OCCF (from left; Barbara Fleming, Roseann Kujawa, Jim Akans (OCHS Executive Director), Cathy Nutt, Sue Fuelling, Karin Beyer (OCCF), Joann Skowronski, Keith Moore and Barbara Switalski).



Providing insights and highlights of their newly released book "A Mind At Play: How Claude Shannon invented the information age," authors Jimmy Soni and Rob Goodman address a capacity crowd (including many OCHS Board Members) during an event at the Otsego County Library. Photo by Jim Akans

Gift Shoppe News

Merry Christmas to all our members. While you are out shopping for gifts this December be sure to stop in to the Museum's Gift Shop for some unique gifts. We have the new Otsego Lake Village Book in stock. We also have new soap and other books for sale. We have had a successful summer in the gift shop.



I would like to thank everyone for their help this past summer and for everyone who took time to visit our gift shop!

Cathy Nutt
Gift Shoppe Manager

OCHS Board Members (from left) Joann Skowronski and Cathy Nutt spent a few hours selling Quilt Raffle tickets at the Jay's Sporting Good lobby. This year's Quilt Raffle ticket sales reached a record high. Photo by Jim Akans



OCHS Board Member, Cathy Nutt, is joined by her granddaughters Kayla (at left) and Paloma during the Thunder Over Waters event held on September 4. OCHS has participated with a booth in the vendor area at the event for several years. Photo by Phil Alexander



Prior to the Claude Shannon event at the Otsego County Library on September 21, several people attended a one-hour tour of locations around town significant to Shannon's boyhood experience in his hometown. Here, the group visits the Claude Shannon statue in downtown Gaylord. Photo by Jim Akans

From the Executive Director...



This time of the year brings out a spirit of good nature, fellowship and an appreciation of our blessings like no other. There is a sense of nostalgia that makes being a part of the Historical Society a wonderful fit for the mood and sentiments of the season. There is an emphasis on giving thanks to those around us that makes one truly appreciate "It's a Wonderful Life."

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thankfulness to those who support the operation and mission of the Otsego County Historical Society:

- Our Board of Directors, who volunteer their time throughout the year to ensure we stay on task and work diligently behind the scenes in countless ways.
- Our Museum visitors from across the state, county and globe who enjoy spending time learning about our county and our stories, while often sharing their memories and stories with us.

Historical Society's 2017 Quilt Raffle Winner!



Photo by Jim Akans

Jan Pearson is the winner of the 2017 Otsego County Historical Society's annual Quilt Raffle, (license number X95897). Her entry was randomly drawn on Saturday, October 28 at noon at the Otsego County Museum, and her winning ticket was among nearly 500 entries in this year's raffle. She was able to stop by the "Haunted Museum" event on Saturday afternoon to pick up her new, handmade Amish quilt. The Otsego County Historical Society congratulates Jan, and extends their sincere thanks to each of this year's Quilt Raffle entrants for their support of the Historical Society's ongoing mission of preserving and presenting the history of Otsego County.

- Our individual members, family members, business members and donors who offer their support and provide the financial foundation for our programs and making the downtown Museum such a wonderful journey through our county's past.
- Our volunteers, who address many, many areas, including; serving as greeters, Gift Shoppe cashiers, assisting with events and programs, tackling maintenance issues and creating (and revising) our exhibits, as well as designing our ever changing and always fascinating front window display (which currently portray's a glimpse of the nostalgia of the Christmas holiday).
- Our community; a one-of-a-kind county in which to live, work, play.

Merry Christmas to all!

Jim Akans

Executive Director



OCHS Board Members and family joined in the "Haunted Halloween" fun, sporting costumes and greeting guests throughout the day. Shown here (from left) holding this year's Quilt about to be raffled; Jennifer Akans, Jim Akans, Joann Skowronski, Kaitlyn Nutt, Margaret Albert, Phil Alexander, Cathy Nutt and Sue Fuelling.



Gaylord Community Productions (GCP) presented a unique and fun look back at Otsego County history with "A Stroll Through The Cemetery" at Fairview Cemetery on October 7. Prior to the event, the cast joined OCHS members for gathering at the downtown Museum to research the County legends they were about to portray. Photo by Jim Akans

The downtown Museum was abuzz on the Saturday prior to Halloween with families attending the first-ever "Haunted Museum" event. Photo by Jim Akans

