

# HUNT MEMORIAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, INC.

716 Irish Cape Road, Ellenville, NY 12428-5812  
(845) 647-7621

September 2008

Dear Friends of Hunt Memorial,

2008 has been an extraordinarily busy year for your Board of Directors, resulting in the creation of the Hunt Book Store at the Hunt Memorial Building. The idea of the Book Store grew out of the success of *Huntfest*, our annual one-day book sale on the lawn of the Hunt. As we analyzed the appeal of *Huntfest* vs. the number of hours of lifting, moving, setting up, tearing down and the accompanying pulled muscles, aching backs and bruises, we realized that the community appreciated the availability of used books at very reasonable prices. The establishment of an on-going book sale in a location unhampered by weather changes was a logical conclusion. We selected the former legal offices of Philip Slutsky as the most realistic location and, thanks to the cooperation of the Eastern New York Correctional Facility, had the two rooms patched and painted.

The Book Store has been open every Sunday (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) since June 22, 2008. We coordinated the dates and times to support the Ellenville Farmers Market, giving the community a double destination within one block. The response has been wonderful! Although our regular hours will end on Sunday, September 28, we are still receiving donations and book buyers continue to stop in each week to see what's new.

## **HUNTFEST**

Since the Book Store has neither heat nor lights, year-round operation, or even an occasional "special" day during the winter months, is not yet possible, but we have hopes. *Huntfest* will be our 2008 closing celebration on Sunday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will include selected paperbacks priced to sell @ 10 for \$1.00, many hardcover books @ 2/\$1.00, and a lawn sale, all for the benefit of the restoration of the Hunt Memorial Building. This is an opportunity not to be missed!

## **SIGN, WEBSITE AND STAINED GLASS WINDOW**

2008 has included the conclusion of two projects made possible by grants from Senator John J. Bonacic. In April we unveiled the stunning new building sign created and erected by Roger Baker. It faces the intersection of Canal and Liberty Streets and is a fitting identification of our National Historic Landmark building.

Part 2 of the same grant resulted in the creation of a website for the Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee by local webmaster Steve Krulick. The site is packed with information about the building, the organization and what's happening. It is accessible at <http://huntmemorial.com>.

The second project is the restoration of a unique stained glass skylight originally installed in the reception room (the center room immediately off the east portico, best known to most people as the old children's room of the Ellenville Public Library). Most people probably never knew the skylight was there, since no light came through it for the last fifty years or more. The overall size of this stained glass treasure, a one-of-a-kind design commemorating the Women's Christian Temperance Union, is 66" x 113". The HMPC was concerned about the safety of this irreplaceable window at the time the building roof was replaced and used grant funds for its removal and restoration by the well respected Donskoj & Co. of Kingston. The window will be securely boxed and stored until the reception room is returned to its original condition. When the possibility of construction damage is no longer imminent, the window will be re-installed with enhanced visibility.

### **BROCHURE GRANT**

We are currently applying for a Decentralization Grant administered by the Dutchess County Council for the Arts which will fund the cost of a new promotional brochure about the Hunt Memorial Building. If we are successful, the grant should cover 80% of the printing costs.

### **NAMED OPPORTUNITIES**

Our 2007 fund raising appeal offered the option of Named Opportunities, the possibility of contributing a specified amount of money which would be used for the restoration of a window, pillars, an entrance, or other architectural entity. That particular window, door, etc. would be identified with a plaque recognizing the donor and/or "in memory of..." That same opportunity will continue this year and future years through the restoration of the exterior. We had hoped that the five commitments received in 2007 would be completed in 2008, but the Village's matching grant announced in 2006 has not yet reached fruition, so the earmarked funds have been invested, pending completion of the grant paperwork. The opportunities already committed are the first floor window of the current office of the Ellenville/Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce; the Canal Street entrance marked "PUBLIC LIBRARY" permanently on the building, and three windows facing the parking lot behind the building.

Other named opportunities still available include restoration of the north door, currently the Hunt Book Store door (\$10,000), windows facing the parking lot (\$1,000 each), and arched windows facing Canal Street (\$10,000 each). For further information, contact the HMPC at our mailing address.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the HMPC is open to any individual who shares our dream of restoring the Hunt Memorial Building to its 1918 glory. Annual membership is \$10.00 per person, with membership expiring December 31 each year. If you are a member, the calendar year in which your membership will expire (or has expired) is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If you are not a member but would like to join us, a form is provided on page 4 of this newsletter. Please complete the application, enclose your check made payable to HMPC, and mail it to the official address. If you wish, use the PayPal option available on the website. If you have an e-mail address you are willing to share, we will be able to communicate with you more easily if you list your address on your membership application.

What benefits does membership confer? The right to vote at the Annual Meeting or specially called membership meetings, periodic information about HMPC activities, and the satisfaction of being involved in the civic responsibility of participating in the preservation of a community treasure.

### **ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 5**

This is your official notification that the Annual Meeting of the Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee, Inc. will be held at the Community Room of the Ellenville Public Library and Museum, 40 Center Street, Ellenville, New York on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 7 p.m. Three members of the Board of Directors will be elected to three-year terms. In order to vote, HMPC members must be in good standing (dues have been paid) effective October 1, 2008. The terms of Marion M. Dumond, Leslie Levine and Stan Rubin expire Dec. 31, 2008. Ms. Levine and Mr. Rubin have indicated they are willing to continue as members of the board. Mrs. Dumond is retiring from the Board of Directors after serving two full terms. The Board Development Committee (Phyllis Rubin, Chair) has been charged to bring the names of three nominees to the October 1 meeting of the Board of Directors. If you wish to be nominated, please contact Mrs. Rubin at (845) 647-7582.

### **COOKIE COOKBOOK**

We are collecting cookie recipes from our HMPC members, our families and our friends to be published in celebration of the Hudson River Valley's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Are you a cookie baker? Do you have recipes to share? See page 4 for the form.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee, Inc., was formed as a non-profit New York State corporation in January 2003. It is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and is registered with the New York State Attorney General's Bureau of Charities, filing an annual report with that office which is available online.

Our stated mission is to restore and preserve the architectural integrity and historical significance of the Hunt Memorial Building and to return it to a combined community/business use in keeping with John R. Hunt's original vision of a centrally located structure "so that a portion of it could be rented for business purposes" in order to make the building self-sustaining.

The 2007 revision of the HMPC Bylaws was approved at the 2007 annual meeting and is posted on our website.

The HMPC currently has \$30,000 invested in an interest-bearing account toward restoration expense. When the Village's matching funds grant is authorized, we have the option of matching \$200,000 and realizing the doubled amount of \$400,000 to be used in restoration of the Hunt Memorial Building exterior. Will you help us?

The members of the Board of Directors are all community residents who have committed themselves to the restoration project with no gain to themselves. We do not receive mileage, salary, or any honorarium. We are business people, retirees, parents, citizens faced with the same economic problems of increasing taxes, frightening gas, fuel oil and other energy charges, caught in a tight economy that challenges fixed and/or decreased income. And yet, we ask you to contribute to the annual fund raising appeal to save a building. We know that your contribution may well involve a sacrifice on your part. We know that you may not be able to give as much as you would like. And yet, we ask you to contribute whatever you can, as much as you can.

Contribute because you know that the Hunt Memorial Building is a treasure that should NOT be lost to a developer who may destroy the very fabric of this nationally recognized landmark. Contribute because you remember the years of arts and culture this building has provided. Contribute because you can still attend open air concerts in the summer, thrill to the Huckleberry Festival art show, and appreciate the fact that this is a publicly owned building that is being saved for you, your children and your children's children.

We thank you for your previous support, whatever you can contribute in 2008, and your commitment to preserving and restoring the Hunt Memorial Building.

Your contribution should be made payable to HMPC and mailed to 716 Irish Cape Road, Ellenville, NY 12428. It is fully deductible to the limit allowed by law.

We are most grateful for your participation.

Sincerely yours,

**HMPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Marion M. Dumond, President  
Stephen Bradley, Vice President  
Barbara A.T. Hoff, Recording Secretary  
Phyllis Lennert, Corresponding Secretary  
Leslie Levine, Treasurer

Kathy Butler  
Mary Ellen Flemming  
Phyllis Rubin  
Stan Rubin

