

# DELMAR PROGRESS CLUB



2021

*Celebrating 120 Years*

## PROGRESS IN PRINT

### President's Message



June 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of my second term. I guess I'll go down in history as Delmar Progress Club's "Pandemic President"! It has been a year without large gatherings at meetings or social functions. That should change once the library has made a decision regarding use of its meeting rooms. Since we are all fully vaccinated, we have been discussing the possibility of having a Progress Club picnic during the summer or in September.

In addition, Debbie Gall has been sorting through all the club materials that had been stored in the library. Debbie suggested an Open House to display the historical documents as another way for members to get together. It is our 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so we need to explore ways to celebrate. I asked Susan Leath, Bethlehem's Town Historian, to write an article about the Delmar Progress Club's historical accomplishments. The article appears in the June issue of *Our Towne Bethlehem*. We've copied it at the end of the PIP for your convenience.

There will be a few changes with this new year. Barbara Hogan will now focus her attention on the website which requires a lot of work to maintain it. Joan Gavrilik will assume the responsibility of publisher of *Progress in Print* starting in September. Monday Morning Musings will only occur on the first Monday of the month. The walking group and the book group will continue during the summer. I will probably send out a summer *News and Notes* to announce any social gatherings we might plan and to provide updates on use of the library's meeting rooms. The Yearbook Committee is compiling information and hopefully will have it available for members early in September. Please pay your dues so that you can receive a copy and, more importantly, to support the club.

I need your help in a few ways and I hope you will consider the following positions for this year: Recording Secretary, Chair of the Environment, Conservation and Garden Committee, and assistance with the Communication and Technology Committee and the social functions that we hope to have this year. If you have any questions about these, please let me know, but please consider helping.

I can't end this year without thanking all the members who have helped keep the organization afloat and functioning under such difficult circumstances. Everyone deserves thanks for paying their dues and I am extremely grateful to the people who contributed to the scholarship fund. But I want to personally thank the following individuals who performed various tasks (major or minor) to keep the club active during this past year: Carol Ackerman, Carolyn Bennett, Mary Bigelow, Ronnie Blendell, Barbara Bradford, Rosemary Brown, Laurel Bryden, Pam Burns, Alison Calvagno, Mary Ellen Caporta, Judy Ciccio, Laura Cooper, Wilma DeLucco, Joyce Demoly, Margaret Dilgen, Valerie Donovan, Christine Doran, Phyllis Drew, Debbie Gall, Joan Gavrilik, Robyn Giddings, Linda MacRitchie Graf, Helen Gray, Linda Hardy, Susan Haswell, Barbara Hogan, Carol Jonas, Joan Kapral, Barbara Kavanagh, Doris Kirk, Susan Lamora, Nancy Looby, Leda Loux, Debbie Mazzone, Priscilla Miller, Lynn Millspaugh, Connie Mulligan, Sigrid Naar, Kathy Newkirk, Marge O'Brien, Marilyn Peterson, Kathy Raffe, Linda Reddy, Lynn Rhodes, Sheryl Ricciardelli, Mary Richards, Joan Richardson, Sue Ann Ritchko, Kathy Schimanski, Deanne Sodergren, Maryalice Svare, Georgette Tefoe, Pam Tindall-O'Brien, Ann VanDervort, Norene White, Karen Winters, Josie Woods, Anne Young. I am sure I forgot someone and I apologize for that. Some members worked behind the scenes in support of the club and I thank you.

With spring here, I have to recognize some members for their hard work and diligence. Ann VanDervort and Priscilla Miller did a beautiful job with the flower gardens at the library! I also want to thank Barbara Hogan for all her support and outstanding work with Zoom meetings, messages sent out, recording secretary, the website and tech assistance to our members. You were so helpful!

-Lynne

2021 - 2022 Dues are Due! Please Support our Club!

MAIL Your \$45.00 Check to: DPC P.O. Box 423, Delmar, NY 12054

**Membership Report  
April 2021**



**Membership Report  
May 2021**

New Members: None  
Resignations: None  
Deaths: Barbara Zautner

**REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE**

Many talented women have work tirelessly over this past year to keep this club vibrant and relevant. Please send your \$45. Now.

**Changes in Contact Information :** Send to [kkwinters@verizon.net](mailto:kkwinters@verizon.net) or 518-439-0706  
Karen Winters, Second Vice President

**Remembrance Report—May 2021**

- ◆ Get well card was sent to Rosemary Brown who broke her hip.
- ◆ Sympathy card was sent to Mr. and Mrs. David Canfield on the loss of her mother, Lydia Ackerman
- ◆ Get well card sent to Linda Hardy
- ◆ Sympathy card was sent to Barbara Zautner’s husband  
Josie Woods  
518-489-9870



Our bottle and can redemption program through the Hannaford CLYNK program is ongoing. If you need CLYNK bags, please contact Joan Gavrilik at [jsg85@aol.com](mailto:jsg85@aol.com) or 518-439-4520 and she will happily deliver them to your doorstep.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarships.



Grace Apuzzi is going to Penn State in their school of engineering. Grace maintained a 95 average at BC along with sports, school clubs, community service and work. Pictured far left: Grace Apuzzi and her Mom Christi Beaury. Pictured near left: Grace and Maryalice Svare, of the DPC Scholarship Committee, delivering the \$1500 check.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pictured at right are two more scholarship recipients. Julia and Joseph Harvey (twins), pictured with their parents David and Theresa, were selected and the decision was to award each student a \$750 scholarship.



\* Julia has an impressive BC career maintaining a 97 average. She participated in sports, clubs, leadership roles and community service. In the fall she will start Vas-sar College.

\*Joseph Harvey has maintained a 97 average along with involvement in sports, school clubs, volunteer and community service and work. Joseph will start his college career at Syracuse University.

The photo at the lower right is Julia and Joseph with Mary Bigelow. Mary is on our scholarship committee and taught the Harveys while teaching at Hamagrael School.



## JUNE WALKS:



Five Rivers Environmental  
Education Center  
56 Game Farm Rd, Delmar, NY

Health and Fitness Group and Environment, Conservation and Garden Group

Monday, **June 14**, 10 a.m. – **Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar**

**Directions:** Take Delaware Ave south for 1 mile past the High School. Turn right onto Orchard St. After ½ mile, turn left onto Game Farm Rd. After ¼ mile, turn right into Five Rivers. Let's meet up in the parking lot.

Monday, **June 28**, 10 a.m. – **Schenectady Central Park & Rose Garden**

**Directions:** Take Exit 25 off the NYS Thruway, which will put you onto I-890. After 1 ½ miles, take Exit 7 onto Crosstown Connection. After 1 ¼ miles, turn left onto Golf Rd. After ¼ mile, turn right onto Fehr Ave. After ½ mile, turn left onto Central Parkway. After ½ mile, you will be at a Stop sign with Wright Ave on your right. Turn left into the park. The Rose Garden will be on your right.

Drive up to the Stop sign, turn left and park in the gravel lot next to the dog park.

**Contacts:** Pam Tindall-O'Brien: [ptindallobrien@gmail.com](mailto:ptindallobrien@gmail.com), 518-439-1672; Joan Gavrilik, [jsg85@aol.com](mailto:jsg85@aol.com), 518-439-4520 (home), 518-596-4599 (cell)

### \*NEW\* Summer Walking Group

Although DPC generally does not plan events during the summer, we will continue to walk on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 10 a.m. throughout July, August and September — until DPC activities resume in October. If you wish to receive a walking schedule at the beginning of each month, please email Joan Gavrilik at [jsg85@aol.com](mailto:jsg85@aol.com) to add your name to the mailing list. (Adding your name will keep you in the loop, but does not obligate you to attend or even be up before 10 a.m.)

### Literature Group

Chairwoman: Kathy Schimanski

518-439-7237, [gkparfore@aol.com](mailto:gkparfore@aol.com)

#### Annual Literature Picnic

We are all looking forward to our picnic on Tuesday, June 8th beginning at noon at the Slingerlands Fire Department on New Scotland Rd., Slingerlands.

We would like everyone to bring their own food, something to drink and a napkin. There are several picnic tables, but ladies can bring their own lawn chairs, if they prefer. If someone is handicapped, she can be dropped off down in the pavilion.

The book we will review is *The Woman in The Window* by A.J. Finn. Karen Winters will facilitate the discussion. In order to save parking space, please try to car pool with a friend or two. Hope to see you then.



### \*NEW\* Indie Summer Book Club

Although DPC generally does not plan events during the summer, we have scheduled independent summer book club meetings (via Zoom) for those who wish to discuss books this summer — until the Literature Group picks up again in October.



— Tuesday, July 13, 10 a.m., *Anxious People: A Novel* by Fredrik Backman -- “[A] charming, poignant novel about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers....” -- Amazon (Pam Tindall-O'Brien, facilitator)

— Tuesday, August 10, 10 a.m., *The Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir* by Michele Harper -- “An emergency room physician explores how a life of service to others taught her how to heal herself.” -- Amazon (Joan Gavrilik, facilitator)

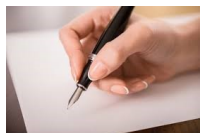
— Tuesday, September 14, 10 a.m., *God Help the Child: A Novel* by Toni Morrison -- “[A] tale about the way sufferings of childhood can shape, and misshape, the life of the adult.” -- Amazon (Linda Graf, facilitator)

If you wish to receive emails and Zoom links for these book discussions, please email Joan Gavrilik at [jsg85@aol.com](mailto:jsg85@aol.com) to add your name to the mailing list. (Adding your name will keep you in the loop, but does not obligate you to attend, participate, or read a book.)

*As there were no questions or corrections raised about the Nominating Committee Report and the 2021-2022 Budget recommendations, both reports stand approved as presented.*



### Corresponding Secretary's Report



A thank you note was sent on DPC members' behalf to Judith Kehoe from the BC school district. She spoke to us about the school district's present and future plans during a May MMM Zoom Group meeting.

The DPC received correspondence from three organizations. Canine Companions sent a fundraising letter. Soles 4 Souls thanked us for seven pairs of shoes. And Paul Grondahl thanked us for our recent donation to the NYS Writers Institute.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Millspaugh  
Corresponding Secretary



### JUNE 2021 IMPORTANT DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 8	Tuesday	12:00pm	Annual Literature Picnic - Slingerlands Fire Department
June 14	Monday	10:00am	Walk at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
June 28	Monday	10:00am	Walk at Schenectady Central Park & Rose Garden

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

President	Lynne Lenhardt
First Vice President	Pamela Tindall-O'Brien
Second Vice President	Karen Winters
Recording Secretary	
Corresponding Secretary	Lynn Millspaugh
Treasurer	Christine Doran
Assistant Treasurer	Phyllis Drew
Club Advisor (ex-officio)	Debbie Gall
Term Expires 2022	Kathy Schimanski Joyce Demoly
Term Expires 2023	Rosemary Brown Carolyn Bennett
Term Expires 2024	Margaret Dilgen Kathy Newkirk

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2021-2022

Advisor:	Debbie Gall
Auditing:	Deanne Sodergren
Bylaws:	Mary Richards
Civic Betterment & Legislative Action:	Linda Graf
Communications & Technology:	Barbara Hogan and Joan Gavrilik
Club History/Scrapbook:	Carol Smith
Community Service:	Debbie Gall, Kathy Raffe, Linda Reddy
Federation Coordinator:	Rosemary Brown
Finance:	Carolyn Bennett
Holiday Tea:	
Souper Luncheon:	
Social:	
Salvation Army Stockings:	Kim Watson
Nominating Committee:	Rosemary Brown
Remembrance:	Josie Woods
Scholarship:	Maryalice Svare
Telephone:	Mariann Carcich, Mary Lou Jackson and Elizabeth Bartley
Yearbook:	Linda Graf, Mary Lou Jackson and Mariann Carcich
Distribution:	Laura Cooper and Bonnie Urso

#### STUDY GROUP LEADERS

Antiques:	Joan Kapral	Environment, Conservation and Garden:	Joyce Demoly
Creative Arts:	Rosemary Brown Deanne Sodergren	Health and Fitness:	Pamela Tindall O'Brien and Cynthia Dwyer
Knitting:	Leda Loux	Literature:	Kathy Schimanski
Holiday Tree –	Jan Messina	Performing Arts:	Wilma DeLucco
		Travel:	Kathy Newkirk



# Then & Now

## The Delmar Progress Club

By Susan E. Leath

*In a roundabout way, my recent obsession with street names has led me to the Delmar Progress Club. Read on for news about this community organization that is celebrating 125 years.*

On the evening of Monday February 13, 1905, after her daughters, toddler Mary and infant Dorothy, were put to bed, 24-year-old Lulu Mochrie hosted her fellow members of the Delmar Progress Club at her Hudson Avenue home. Her husband, Charles was likely resting from his labors clerking for the nearby D&H Railroad. In 1904-1905, there were 20 club members, most of whom were young women with a yen for personal and community improvement.

"A Year in England" was the theme of study for that season. The women gathered in Mrs. Mochrie's parlor heard Aimee Allen present about Rugby. She left her three young daughters back at the parsonage of the Delmar Reformed Church with husband the Rev. Henry Bacon Allen. Ada Ticknor presented about Warwick Castle. She left her infant son Roland with husband William, also a clerk with the D&H.

Inspired by a visit to the Women's Club of Cobleskill in 1901, Elva Hinman established the Delmar Progress Club "for the mental, moral, and social development of the members and the betterment of the community." At the time Elva was 25 years old and had been a



Elva Himan Dyer, probably around the time of the Delmar Progress Club's founding in 1901. (Courtesy of Findagrave.com)



Mrs. Stuart S. Belcher and Mrs. Harlan Raymond, Delmar Progress Club members, enjoy a meal in 1954. (Town of Bethlehem archive)

schoolteacher for several years. She grew up in Delmar, daughter of Clara and Nathan. In 1896 and 1897 she was teaching in Delanson, and in 1899, amazingly, was nominated on the Albany County Democratic ticket for school commissioner for the first district (Bethlehem, Coeymans and New Scotland). The Political Pointers column of the November 4, 1899 Albany Argus newspaper notes that in her examination for her state teachers' certificate she passed 90% in the subject of school law. The writer continues, "It is very doubtful if the Republican candidate for school commission knows there is such a thing as school law." While Elva did not win that election, her legacy with the Delmar Progress Club is vast.

How to summarize 125 years of women working for the improvement of our community. The list is long and varied. Do you enjoy visiting the Bethlehem Public Library? It was organized by the women of the club as the Delmar Free Library. One way they raised funds for books and building was to create the Delmar Family Directory in 1913. They also held food sales, card parties, masquerades and dramas. All proceeds went to the library. How about improved train service and the banning of smoking in D & H depot? Done. How about naming and numbering streets in order to get home mail delivery. Done. Town ordinances for garbage pickup, controlling fireworks and prohibiting use of firearms in town (apparently there was a rash of bullets shattering windows) were all promoted by the women of the club and their Civic Betterment Committee. And we are only up to about 1940!

In addition to their work improving the community, the club sought to improve their minds with intellectual presentations and discussions organized around the year's theme like the previously mentioned "Year in England" in 1904-05. Another example is 1928-1929





The cast of the drama *What Became of Parker?* a farce comedy presented by the Delmar Progress Club in the fall of 1915 to benefit the library fund. Women of the club played all of the characters including Mrs. Gregg as Otto the waiter, center of the photo with serving tray held in the air, and seated in front of her is Mrs. Johnson as Fred Parker, the title character. (Delmar Progress Club archive.)

*Green and fertile fields of our endeavor  
Dew-wet and smiling in the morning sun.  
All we have labored, all that we have given  
Of our abundance was well spent  
For this – the larger vision of our hopes  
And dreams come true.  
We turn rejoicing.  
Fear beyond the hills the path still leads  
And we have still to follow with our faith  
A flam beyond us in the darkness  
And our zeal a sword.*

Many thanks to Progress Club members Lynne Lenhardt, Debbie Gall, and Alison Calvagno for the deep dive into club history. The club is working to preserve their boxes and boxes of records including 125 years' worth of meeting minutes, scrapbooks, account books and drama scripts.

"American Art and Music. By the 1930s, the club's membership had grown into the hundreds and the study groups Homes and Gardens, Modern Literature, Government and Drama were added.

Local papers are full of clips about the doings of the Delmar Progress Club, holding dramas and fashion shows, raising funds for various charities and scholarships, supporting environmental causes, and one of my favorites, the 1965 Know Your Town Driving Tour. I am finding it nearly impossible to summarize the good work of so many dedicated women in so short a space. To learn more about the vibrant and very modern-day Delmar Progress Club, please visit their website at [DelmarProgressClub.org](http://DelmarProgressClub.org).

Unfortunately, Elva Hinman did not live to see any of this progress. She married David Dyer on July 23, 1902 and gave birth to their daughter on December 1, 1903. She died seven days later on the 8th at the age of 29. Her obituary is poignant. It reads in part, "Mrs. Dyer was a woman of strong personality, possessing rare gifts and graces that compelled admiration and respect a brilliant conversationalist; an entertaining and delightful companion." It goes on to describe her work with the Progress Club, "She was the founder of the Progress Club, and was its honored secretary from the first until her death. To this she devoted much time and energy and by her own interest and zeal created much interest among the members in the study of history and classics."

Elva's husband died not too long after her in 1905 and their daughter Clara Dyer was raised by Elva's mother Clara Hinman. Clara Dyer also became a school teacher. A 1936 club history provides a poem written by Clara Dyer and dedicated to the club. It reads:

*Beyond the hills the pathway leads, and we  
Well-poised upon the mountainside,  
Pause for a moment. Far below us lie the*



Town historian Susan Leath's new book, *Bethlehem People and Places*, explores Bethlehem, New York's unique history through 36 illustrated articles.

Places ground our history.

People make history lively. Come along on the journey as Leath follows her curiosity in her hometown of Bethlehem. Read about Victorian and vernacular farmhouses, and about the families that made these types of building home. Find out the story of World War I veteran John Adams Dyer, Hudson River light keeper Warren Welch and architect Grace Slingerland. Wonder about how Delmar got its name, and just where is the hamlet of Frazertown.

Author Susan E. Leath was appointed Bethlehem Town Historian in 2007. She is continually inspired by the people who generously share their family history. Leath believes local history opens the way to the wider sweep of our national story. She invites you to be curious about the everyday people and places around you.

Available NOW at I Love Books in Delmar, Bethlehem Town Hall, The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Market Block Books in Troy and online at [TroyBookMakers.com](http://TroyBookMakers.com) and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

[BethlehemNYHistory.blogspot.com](http://BethlehemNYHistory.blogspot.com)