

Remarks from Interim President, Nevin Martin



Greetings board members and members!

I want to thank all of you again for the opportunity to lead the Tiffin Historic Trust. We have a lot of great things happening, and I feel we are all motivated to help with the growing, exciting Tiffin, Ohio, and the newfound love for our downtown. We are hoping to assist with different projects happening around the town and more than willing to help our members with any of their historical needs.

We want to add value to the membership and increase engagement by making every member aware of our mission and of the events we hold. Feel free to contact us anytime; we are here to help.

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and one of our yearly events is right around the corner. Be sure to purchase a ticket for The Holiday House Tour the first weekend in December either in advance at Great Lakes Ace Hardware or The Grammes-Brown House just before the tour begins on Sunday, December 2.

2018 ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR
December 2, 1:00-5:00 PM

Ticket Donation is \$10 each and are available at Great Lakes Ace Hardware, 1550 W. Market Street, and on the day of the tour from 12:30 p.m. on, at the Grammes-Brown House, 172 Jefferson Street. Contact Joan at 419-618-0698 for further information.

Many of the homes on this year's Holiday House Tour are historic and exemplify the beauty and craftsmanship typical of the architecture of the 1800's. See the imaginative way that use of the upper floors of business buildings can make superlative residences. A contemporary condominium and a home built in 1940 are also included.



If you have not already bought your ticket, begin the tour at the Tiffin Historic Trust's headquarters, The Grammes-Brown House, 172 Jefferson Street. Exemplifying Second Empire architecture, it features a mansard roof typical of the style. The restoration work done by the Historic Trust members reflects the Victorian love of ornate interiors and objects.



In 1854 Judge William Lang purchased twenty-three acres of land on East County Road 50 (Greenfield Street) as the site for his home, "Willowdale." Designed for entertaining guests as well as

being the family home, it was the site of lavish parties hosted by the Langs. This red brick Victorian features an upstairs "dancing room." After Jeff and Francine Neal purchased the home in 2009, it underwent a complete restoration.



Constructed in the mid-1800s, Brian and Samantha Hunt's large Victorian-Italianate frame home at 594 South Washington Street sits on 2.5 acres of land within the city limits. Its previous owners included

several prominent Tiffinites. It is recognizable for the gazebo that was originally the Monroe Street School bell tower! The current owners have made many renovations that reflect their own style, while retaining the charm of the historic home.

Downtown Tiffin is fortunate to have a growing number of loft apartments that retain the historic exteriors of the businesses below and highlight the beauty of the original interior construction while providing modern

House Tour *continued from page 1*



construction while providing modern conveniences. Included in this year's tour is an Empire Block loft apartment that was renovated in 2017. School psychologist Molly Depew is the current tenant. The other loft is at 25 South Washington Street and is part of a group of buildings constructed in the mid-1800s and then redesigned by separate owners late in the century to form a uniform block in the



Classical Revival style. This apartment features eighteen-foot ceilings and exposed brick walls that highlight its holiday décor.



Departing from the Victorian era, the Stark home at 21 Herrick Court was built in 1940 by Dr. William Carrigan. It is a traditional frame home, but an addition in the 1960s included an unusual circular den paneled in wormy chestnut. The Starks purchased the home in 2013 and did some redecorating, and then even more after an unfortunate incident with a skunk!



The newest home on the tour is from early in the twenty-first century, the Schweitzer condominium in the Hedgegate (544) North complex off Coe Street. The open living area with a vaulted ceiling that reaches twenty feet allows for a nine-foot and a twelve-foot Christmas tree. The home features a finished basement with a theater, living room and kitchenette. At least seven full-sized themed trees, including a farm tree, a funky tree, and a Santa Claus tree, as well as many smaller trees make evident the Schweitzers' love of Christmas decorating!

Grammes-Brown House Repairs

As with any older home, repairs to the Grammes-Brown House are ongoing and are on a need-to-do basis. The Trust board is setting money aside each month to help finance the repairs. We must attend to the basic needs such as painting window frames and weather-stripping doorways. A recent fly-over by a board member's drone revealed areas of rotting wood above some of the windows. Those repairs need to be addressed

as soon as the weather permits. We are hoping to have this completed sooner rather than later.



The programming committee and other board members would like to see more use made of the carriage house. To that end, we are having an electrician come and look at the feasibility of providing it with electricity, making it into a venue for casual warm-weather events.

These are some of the small and big projects that

will take time but need to be addressed. The right people have been contacted to help us complete these tasks. We need to establish a budget reflecting priorities and look into potential grant opportunities to help undertake these projects.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help with the garden or our patio. Contact Jackie (419-618-9728) or Nevin (419-618-1001) if you are interested in lending a hand.

Annual Holiday Chili Supper for Members, Friends, and Home Tour Hosts

Pots of chili stay hot on the Grammes-Brown House antique gas stove.



Celebrate the Holidays with the Tiffin Historic Trust Board of Trustees Monday Evening, December 3 • 6:30 p.m.

Join the members of the Tiffin Historic Trust for a casual supper and conversation on the evening after the Holiday House Tour. Bowls of chili, appetizers, and desserts are provided by the Trust board members in appreciation of your support of our organization and for all that you do to keep preservation alive in Tiffin.

RSVP to Jackier at 419-585-2075 or 419-618-9728. But, if you forget to respond, come anyway – we always have plenty to eat!

SUCCESS STORY: Downtown Tiffin



Tiffin's Main Street Manager, Amy Reinhart, earned the Ohio Main Street Director of the Year award from Heritage Ohio, which also gave the Tiffin Façade Enhancement Grant Program the Best Public/Private Partnership award.

This kind of success does not just happen. In 2014 Amy Reinhart was employed by the Seneca Industrial and Economic Developmental Corp. She then formed a partnership with Heritage Ohio. Through the program, Downtown Tiffin was certified a Main Street in 2015.

Amy also helped to implement Tiffin's Façade Enhancement Program which was created to bolster revitalization in the downtown by providing financial assistance for repairing the exteriors of buildings that

faced major streets in the designated Downtown Historic District.

As you read in the last Preservation Post:

"The Tiffin Historic Trust was fortunate to have finished an important project in June this year using Cornerstone Historical Building Restoration, LLC owned by Adam Obenour. The project was bid at \$7,142.02 of which 50% was grant money and 50% Trust money. Our organization was ably guided by Amy Reinhart, representing the city of Tiffin Downtown Façade Enhancement Program."

All the members and supporters of the Tiffin Historic Trust, Inc. can be gratified to know that our organization has worked through challenging years, always confident of the eventual realization and value of our historic downtown. So, it has come full circle. Great work, Amy and all!



Mimi Lange Johnston
(photo from LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/in/mimi-lange-johnston-82966412a)

UPCOMING EVENT

Celebrate Love at the Valentine Tea, February 9th

What could be more entertaining at a Valentine Tea than hearing a crooner performing love songs? Mimi Lange Johnston will accompany herself on the piano while she selects songs from her extensive repertoire.

A Calvert High School graduate, Lange Johnston studied piano performance at Ashland University and vocal pedagogy at Northeastern Illinois University. She has returned home to Tiffin after serving as the Department Chair of Music and Theatre at the Franklin Christian Academy in Tennessee. Mimi has performed at The Fairmont, The Intercontinental, and The Palmer House in Chicago, as well as Nashville's Bluebird Café and Puckett's Grocery.

Contact Phyllis at 419-448-8312 to reserve a place at our next Victorian Valentine Tea on February 09, 2019, at 12:30 p.m.

As an incentive for joining the Tiffin Historic Trust, members are eligible for a 10% discount off her or his \$20 ticket donation.



Jackie Fletcher greets a young tea-drinker at the 2018 Valentine Tea.





P.O. Box 333
Tiffin, OH 44883-0333



Give The Gift of a Membership To Someone You Know!

I want to help preserve our architectural heritage. Please enroll my friend/relative as a member in the following category:

Annual Memberships: New Member

- Individual \$15
- Family \$30
- Sponsor \$50
- Patron \$75
- Business \$100

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON TEA EVENTS, AND RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PLUS ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



P.O. Box 333
Tiffin, OH 44883

www.tiffinhistorictrust.com
tiffinhistoric@att.net
419-447-4789

Our Mission

"To promote historic preservation in Tiffin by meetings, publications, tours, or other means. To act as a non-profit organization to apply for and accept any grants that may be appropriate to further the cause of historic preservation. To promote and develop any plan for the preservation and restoration of Tiffin and to work with all interested groups and individuals to put this plan into effect."

Tiffin Historic Trust Board of Trustees Officers

Nevin Martin (Interim President)
Jackie Fletcher (Vice-President)
Mark Levans (Treasurer)
Nancy Rubenstein (Secretary)

Term Expiring 2019

John Bing
Doug Collar
Mary Lewis
Joan Martin
Nancy Rubenstein

Term Expiring 2020

Jackie Fletcher
Mark Levans
Nevin Martin
David/Christa Selnick
Phyllis Watts

Term Expiring 2021

Karin Brown
Vicki Ohl
Fred Shelt
Lisa Swickard
Ashley Woodruff

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



What The Tiffin Historic Trust Has Been Up To!

Behind the Façade Tour: Lady Justice and Downtown Discoveries

For the first time since the Behind the Façade tours began, Tiffin Historic Trust chose to focus on new construction during the Heritage Weekend walking tour, “Lady Justice and Downtown Discoveries,” on September 16, 2018. The new Joint Justice Center provided a physical as well as symbolic link between the past and the future, allowing us to commemorate some of our most historic architecture while celebrating the new developments and renovations in many downtown structures. Nearly 100 people were guided through the building and visited the other properties on the tour including St. Paul’s Methodist Church, Second United Church of Christ, The Chandelier, Reclaim It, Washington Street Outfitters, Red Raven Tattoo Parlor and Art Gallery, Simply Susan’s and thirty-three Court Street.

We especially appreciate the businesses that opened their doors and offered refreshments to our travelers: mocktails at The Renaissance, gyro samplers at Put-n-Pita, freshly brewed beer at The LAB Brewery, and frozen yogurt at FroZone. We thank Simply Susan’s for selling tickets in advance, and all of the business owners, church members, and commissioners and staff who gave up their Sunday afternoon to open their doors to history lovers.



Commissioner Holly Stacy conducts a tour.



Mary Lewis assists John Huss as he sells his latest book.



The Laird Arcade Brewery



From Church to Government Building to The Red Raven Tattoo Parlor.



Kip Kieffer imagines the future of 33 Court St.



Tiffin-Seneca Justice Center



Enjoying a taste treat at Put-in-Pita



33 Court Street

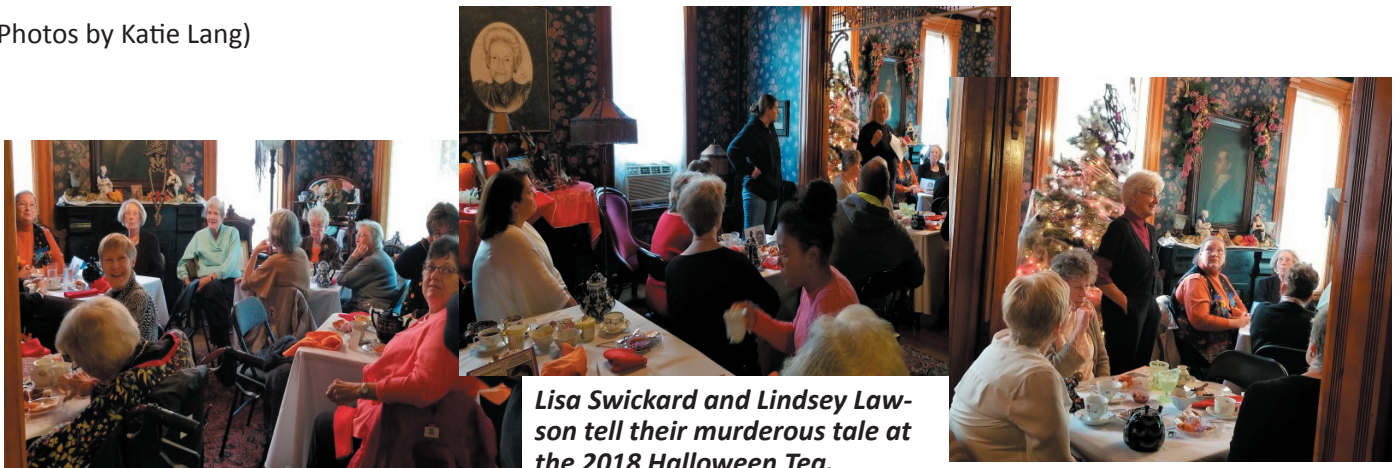


Judges bench

The Halloween Tea

On October 13, during the Halloween Tea, Lisa Swickard and Lindsey Lawson revealed the shocking but true story of **Tiffin’s Ketchup Murderer** to a capacity audience.

(Photos by Katie Lang)



Lisa Swickard and Lindsey Lawson tell their murderous tale at the 2018 Halloween Tea.

What The Tiffin Historic Trust Has Been Up To!—continued

Steinway Afternoon & Craft Beer Tasting

On a cool but pleasant October 21st afternoon, the Historic Trust held a fundraiser at the Grammes-Brown House to celebrate its very own Octoberfest. Rob Weaver from L.A.B. (Laird Arcade Brewery), accompanied by Andy Flechtner, gave an educational presentation that included a craft beer tasting. Guests sampled five different beers ranging from light to dark, a very well-rounded sampling. Board members supplied the snacks to complement the beers with apple cider from Empire 138 for the non-beer drinkers. All participants received a “howler” which they could later have filled with the beer of their choice from those at the tasting.

After hearing how The L.A.B. crew got started and how much time and effort go into beer making, Nevin Martin declared that these men truly are chemists!

Live accordion and piano entertainment was provided by Doug McConnell who played classic beer-hall music on the Steinway piano and outdoors on his accordion.

The nearly thirty people who attended the event not only had a great time but found it educational as well. The committee that planned the Steinway Afternoon intends to repeat the event in the fall or possibly in the warmer spring time! They hope to see all of you at the next Sunday Funday!

Photos by Christine Waters Pattee

Enjoying the sunshine, Doug McConnell plays beer-hall music on his accordion.



Rob Weaver and Andy Flechtner of LAB explain the process of making craft beers.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE TIFFIN HISTORIC TRUST WHEN THINKING ABOUT YEAR END TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

This time of year we are thinking about giving to family, friends and charitable organizations. Please consider a monetary gift to Tiffin Historic Trust. Your donation may be sent to THT, P.O. Box 333; our account at Tiffin Community Foundation; or if you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, you may give to THT from your IRA account. Your donation is tax deductible and is very much appreciated.



Book the Grammes-Brown House for Your Special Event

Members: \$60 the first hour and \$20 each additional hour
Non-Members: \$75 the first hour and \$25 each additional hour
Non-profits (such as clubs): \$35 suggested donation.

For More Information Or To Book An Event Contact:

**Jackie
419-585-2075**

