



# HAGEN HISTORY CENTER

SUNFLOWER ISSUE &  
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*Dear Friends,*

All eyes this summer are focused on our farm known as the Battles Estate. After more than a year of planning, we are pleased to announce an entire week of programming centered around our sunflowers – 1.2 million of them!

We'll host a sunflower art class, sunflower arranging class, four sunflower picnics, and two sunflower-themed dinners. All the events are designed to provide you with an immersive experience in one of the largest sunflower plots in the tri-state area. Even if you don't make it out to an event, we encourage you to witness the beauty and take as many photos as you would like.

Thanks to local Girard resident, Simone Welsh, we even have a large painted sunflower cutout that you can use to photograph your children for free. After the sunflowers dry, they will be transported to Kane, Pennsylvania, where they will be distilled by our partner and world's only sunflower distillery, the Wilds Sonshine Factory. The seeds will be completely segregated so that they will create a batch of spirits grown from our field and marketed directly to Erie County restaurants and bars.

History is best experienced when you feel part of it, and we hope that our sunflowers bring you joy. Join us as we continue the agrarian tradition of the Battles Family!

## ANNOUNCING

*Sunflower Picnics*  
Aug. 4, 5, 6, 7

*Flower Arranging Class*  
Aug. 8

*Painting Among the Sunflowers*  
Aug. 9

*Sunflower Dinners*  
Aug. 8 and 9

**-DETAILS ON PAGE 3-**



*Caleb M. Pifer,  
Executive Director*



*Announcing*  
**TOM HAGEN'S  
BIRTHDAY BASH**

Coming  
SEPT. **13** 2025

We are celebrating 90 years of  
our favorite donor's life during  
a special celebration that will  
replace our gala this year at  
356 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Check for details**  
**90thbirthdaybash.com**

*Thank  
you!*

for supporting our June events,  
the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Creating a Legacy  
and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men at the Museum.

A very special thank you to everyone who sponsored and attended our first-ever garden party at the restored grounds and Battles White House at 306 Walnut St. in Girard on June 10th.

The garden party included philanthropist Charlotte Battles' gardens, a new she-shed, plenty of seating, wonderful food from Make It Fabulous and varietal cocktails and Champagne, music by Julie and Chris Moore of Tennessee Back Porch, and croquet on the lawn, along with a sketch artist who drew women in dresses in minutes. The entire party took place amid the impressive blooms next to the 1861 Victorian home and welcomed more than 300 women.

Funds raised from this event will help to continue preservation of the White House. Special thanks to our committee members Lauren Bauer, Emily Fessler Suchanec, Erin Fessler, Susan Kanonczyk, Abby Lechner, Barb Lechner, Dr. Kim Mascia, Leah Murphy, Lisa NeCastro, and Dana Zaphiris for bringing this event to life.



The Men at the Museum event was held on June 18 at the Hagen History Center, 356 West 6<sup>th</sup> St. Men enjoyed an inside/outside party complete with heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar, table games for fun, cigars, and music by the Dillon Shidemantle Trio.

Committee members included Matt Clark, Ben Davis, Joe Hilbert, Ben Jefferys, Matt Lasher, Mark Murphy, John Zack and Alec Zaphiris. This event boasted an attendance of 225 men. A portion of the funds raised will support the ongoing restoration of the 98 windows at the Watson-Curtze Mansion.

These two events raised over \$120,000! Thank you very much to all.  
More photos are on our website.





# ANNOUNCING

## *Girard Sunflower Events Aug. 4 to 9*



### *Sunflower Picnics*

— AUG. 4, 5, 6, 7 —

Relax and unwind with a casual picnic surrounded by acres of blooming sunflowers.

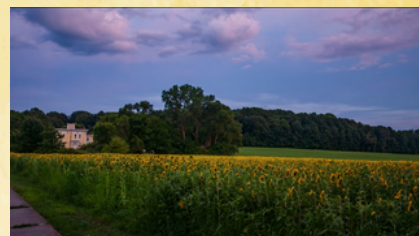
Enjoy a wonderful evening at a table for two surrounded by sunflowers.

Your picnic includes wine and charcuterie for two with a choice of 2021 Teller Red, 2022 Teller White, and Ruby Sangria all from Girard's own Full Circle Winery.

**Limited to only 8 tables per night  
\$85 per person**



To register for all events on this page, visit [hagenhistory.org/events](https://hagenhistory.org/events)



### *Sunflower Dinners*

— AUG. 8 & 9 —

Join us for a golden evening inspired by the sunflower!

- 1st Course: Crispy sunflower seed-crusted goat cheese medallions, drizzled with sunflower honey
  - 2nd Course: Chilled sunflower & sweet corn bisque
  - 3rd Course: Roasted chicken with rich sunflower romesco & farm-fresh summer veggies
  - 4th Course: Sunflower honey tart with a salty-sweet sunflower seed crust
- Includes wine pairing*

**Limited to 22 seats per night  
\$120 per person**



### *Flower Arranging Class:*

— AUG. 8 —

9:30am – 11:00am

Learn the art and techniques of creating floral designs.

Join Kate Ricard, owner of Country Estate Cut Flowers for a fantastic flower arranging class.

Participants will learn how to prepare, and arrange flowers and foliage and take home a beautiful sunflower centered arrangement. All materials and refreshments will be provided.

**16 seats available | \$55 per person**



### *Painting Amongst the Sunflowers Class:*

— AUG. 9 —

9:30am – 11:00am

Join nationally recognized artist Simone Welsh, M.F.A., as she instructs you in the painting of a beautiful sunflower serving tray.

Trays are 100% wood, food-safe, and will be painted using acrylic, and finished in food-safe resin. All art materials and refreshments will be provided.

**16 seats available | \$55 per person**

### **TICKETS ARE LIMITED – GRAB YOURS WHILE THEY LAST!**

**Please note: Due to the nature of the perishable food and the limited sunflower season, all tickets are non-refundable. If we have inclement weather, we will move indoors to the Yellow House or White House.**



*We unveiled the  
completely restored  
White House at our  
annual meeting and picnic*



What a night to remember!  
Over 200 amazing members joined us for our  
Annual Meeting & Picnic at the beautifully  
renovated White House in Girard!

Guests enjoyed hayrides with Peter Burton, sipped  
sangria from Full Circle Winery in Girard, tasted  
charcuterie from Your Daily Serving in Corry, and  
sampled the unique flavors of Sonshine from our  
friends at The Wilds Sonshine Factory, Inc. in Kane, Pa.

The Sonshine folks are partnering with us on  
harvesting sunflower seeds this year. It was the perfect  
summer celebration of community and history!



We're also proud to announce  
this year's award winners:

**Historic Preservation Award: Kelly Run Gallery  
Rod and Debbie Miller**

Housed in the historic Springs National Bank building  
in Cambridge Springs, this family-run gallery — led by  
Rod and Debbie Miller with daughter Abby —  
showcases an incredible range of regional artists and  
hosts special exhibits year-round.

**Media Award: Christine Lorraine Morgan**

Christine brings Erie's rich history to life through  
captivating photos, videos, blogs, and podcasts. Her  
passion is contagious, sparking renewed curiosity  
about our local past across social media and YouTube.

**Public History Award:  
Lake Canadohta Historical Society**

In 2024, this powerhouse team of volunteers raised  
\$100,000 in weeks to purchase two historic buildings  
on five acres. Their commitment to preserving and  
sharing local history is nothing short of inspiring.

**Volunteer of the Year Award: Donelle Davey**

Donelle has done it all for our museum. She has  
immersed herself in research for a number of topics,  
guided tour groups through the history center, led tours  
during special events, sponsored events and shared her  
interest in history with all of us and our visitors.



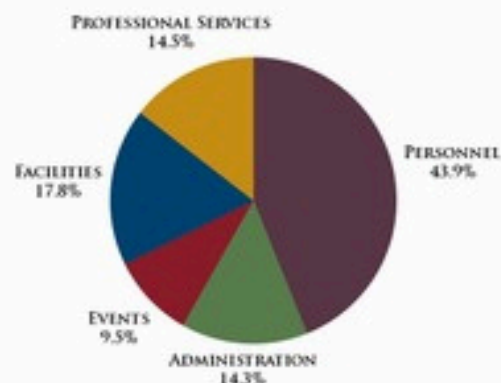
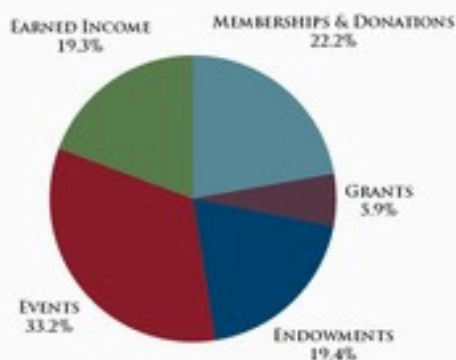
*Clockwise, from top left:*

- Rod and Debbie Miller with daughter Abby
- Christine Lorraine Morgan (center), with her daughter Vinni Augustina Morgan, left, and Christina's sister Laura Frazzini (right)
- Lake Canadohta Historical Society members
- Donelle Davey



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024

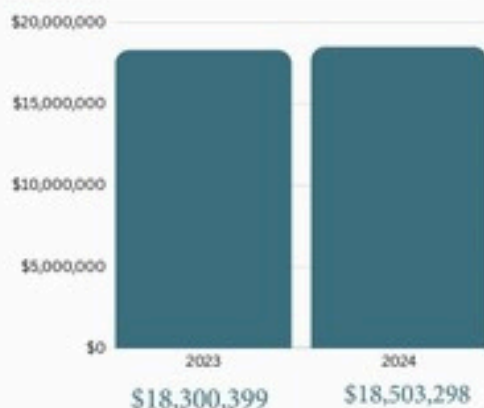


TOTAL INCOME	\$1,639,093
Membership & Donations	\$363,871
Grants	\$97,988
Endowments	\$317,939
Events	\$543,584
Earned Income	\$315,711

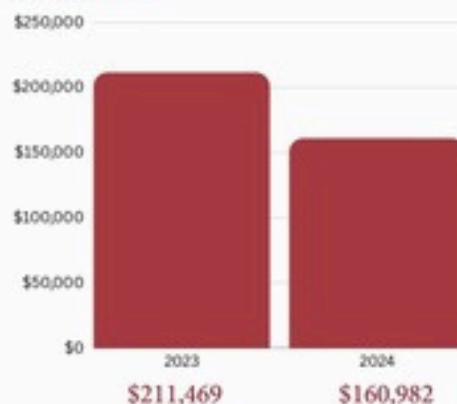
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,241,019
Personnel	\$544,293
Administration	\$177,055
Programing & Events	\$117,055
Exhibits & Collections	\$0
Facilities	\$221,695
Professional Services	\$180,921

**NET OPERATING INCOME: \$398,074**  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 TO 2024

### ASSETS



### LIABILITIES



# Event Schedule 2025

*We don't have exact dates for everything, so please visit our website for updates and details on each event.*  
[www.hagenhistory.org/events](http://www.hagenhistory.org/events)

## **AUG. 1-2 Dan Rice Days**

White House & Yellow House open / Girard

**AUG. 11 Great Key Hunt Returns** Look for our announcement on Erie News Now

**AUG. 12 Erie Gives**

**AUG. 4-9 Girard Sunflower Days**

Picnics, flower arranging, painting class and dinners. Visit page 3 for details

**TBD Home Tour** in Erie

**SEPT. 4 Edinboro Bike Tour**

**SEPT. 13 Tom Hagen's Birthday Bash**

## The Game Returns



**We've got THREE exciting new exhibits at the Hagen History Center — and you're invited to explore them all!**

### **1. Hand-Picked: Staff Selections from Our Collection**

Curated by our own team, this exhibit highlights some of the most fascinating and meaningful pieces in our collection — including the flag that once draped Abraham Lincoln's casket in Albany, the Daniel Dobbins family Bible, a stunning child-sized coach from the Hamot family, and even Dan Rice's bankruptcy papers. You'll find this treasure trove on the second floor of the Watson-Curtze Mansion.

### **2. Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society: A Waterford Legacy**

The Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society brings the rich history of Waterford to our museum! Did you know George Washington once walked there? Explore Eagle Hotel registers, artifacts from Waterford Academy, and much more on the third floor of the Watson-Curtze Mansion.

### **3. Generations of Impact: 165 Years of the YMCA of Greater Erie**

From launching local libraries to shaping the region's recreation scene, the Y has left a lasting legacy. Celebrate 165 years and growth from one location to four.

**\*\*This exhibit on the third floor of the Watson-Curtze Mansion leaves Aug. 12.**

**Coming Soon: A celebration of 150 years of Saint Vincent Hospital and a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph**



## OPENING IN 2026

This fall, we will be creating our Frank Lloyd Wright Field Office Museum! The expansion of the current office will include interactive media, little-known facts, artifacts, letters and Wright memorabilia that have never been seen before.

Visitors from Australia and around the globe have already toured the current office and are loving the news that our exhibit will expand.

The office will open in the spring of 2026.





## Our new issue of *The Triangle* has arrived!

Hot off the press — the brand-new edition of *The Triangle* magazine is here!

Now in its second year, this 56-page, full-color stunner is packed with must-read stories that celebrate Erie's rich past, including:

- The iconic Boston Store
- Trailblazing Erie Architects
- A nostalgic look at Erie County's Drive-Ins

This exclusive magazine is a special benefit for our members and donors — and trust us, you'll want this in your summer reading stack! Know someone who'd love a copy? Invite them to join the History Center and be part of the story. Members can pick up a copy in our gift shop or request one by mail. Email [info@hagenhistory.org](mailto:info@hagenhistory.org)

### Didn't snag a copy of our inaugural issue in 2024?

You're in luck — we still have a limited number available in our gift shop for just \$10! Last year, our very first issue of Triangle Magazine was a hit — featuring unforgettable Erie stories like:



- The rise and fall of Modern Tool Square
- The delicious legacy of Erie's classic diners
- The powerhouse story of the Jarecki family

Grab yours before they're gone and own a piece of Erie history!

## Enhanced tours are coming soon



We've wrapped up our input for tours with Bloomberg Connects technology that will transform your visit into an interactive, guided experience similar to national museum visits.

Multimedia content, audio and video insights will be as close as your phone.

Thanks to philanthropist, Michael Bloomberg, Bloomberg Philanthropies for underwriting the entire program. We hope to launch in the next month.



### Curious about the history of your home—or that of a loved one?

Discover the stories hidden in the walls and land beneath your feet! You can dive into the research yourself by booking a research appointment with our team, or take advantage of our new **Historic Property and Land Research Program** through our Library and Archives.

Let us do the digging for you — projects start at just \$250. From cozy homes to city blocks, we've uncovered histories for properties of all shapes and sizes, including residences, businesses, and historic landmarks.

**Ready to uncover your property's past?**  
Contact us at [info@hagenhistory.org](mailto:info@hagenhistory.org)





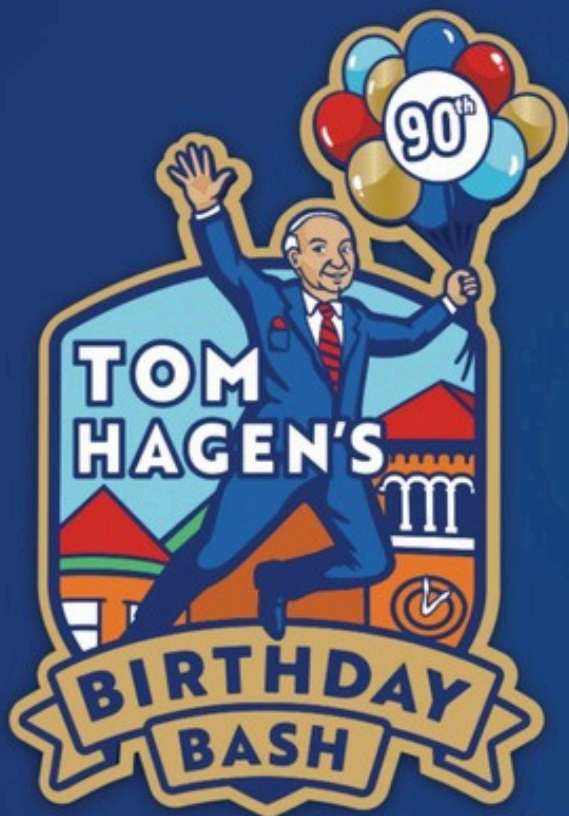
# HAGEN HISTORY CENTER

356 W. 6th St.  
Erie, PA 16507  
[www.hagenhistory.org](http://www.hagenhistory.org)  
814-454-1813

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## *Save the Date*

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

We are celebrating 90 years of our favorite donor's life during a special celebration that will replace our gala this year at 356 West 6th Street.

### Mark Your Calendar

- Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Swing Time Big Band out of Cleveland on the patio
- Red Letter will cater with heavy hors d'oeuvres
- Open Bar
- 7 p.m. Birthday Bash presentation begins with a champagne toast and specialty cake confection
- 8 p.m. Breeze Dance Band plays

Visit [90thBirthdayBash.com](http://90thBirthdayBash.com)  
for sponsorships and tickets