



Arto Monaco Historical Society

arto's way

The newsletter of the Arto Monaco Historical Society
Volume 1, Issue 1, August 2005

First annual meeting held on August 7

Articles

Grant from
Senator Little

Share a story,
take a photo!

About the Arto
Monaco
Historical Society

AMHS Trustees

Anne Mackinnon
President

John Kimberly
Vice president

Sandy Morhouse
Secretary

Ellen Metcalf
Treasurer

The first annual meeting of the Arto Monaco Historical Society was held on August 7, 2005, on the lawn of the Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay. About 40 people attended, including members of Arto's family, former employees, friends, and neighbors. Most of those who came were local, but some came from as far away as New Hampshire and Albany.

Trustees John Kimberly, Sandy Morhouse, Ellen Metcalf, and Anne Mackinnon explained how the organization got started, its mission, and some projects that they hope to carry out over the next few years. Ellen Metcalf then presented nominations for officers. The slate was elected unanimously by the members.

The members had a great time sharing stories about Arto. Among those who

spoke were Lynda Denton, Cam Eldred, Glad Farrell, Mark Frost, Tony Pazzola, Margo Morhouse, Chris Straight, and Jim Wright. Carrie and Lynda Denton and Bertha Doty brought special items created by Arto—including an original Land of Makebelieve stagecoach—for everyone to see and enjoy.

Special thanks to our volunteers! Jeri Wright staffed the member sign-up; Mitch Dickerson led the team that put up the canopies; Maribeth Mackinnon, Ellen Metcalf, and Sylvia Norton brought refreshments; and Frank Fonesca came early and mowed the library lawn. Denise Potter and Sue Devlin-Varin agreed to chair the membership committee.

The society is especially grateful to the Wells Memorial Library for hosting the meeting and for lending us their canopies and chairs, and to Sylvia Norton and Carole McDowell for helping with so many arrangements.

Grant from Senator Betty Little

Great news! In June, we received word that we've received our first grant, thanks to the interest of State Senator Betty Little. The award, for \$10,000, will allow the Arto Monaco Historical Society to take steps to stabilize the Land of Makebelieve castle and study the possibility of restoring it.

The castle, a beloved Upper Jay landmark, was once the centerpiece of the Land of Makebelieve park. It has deteriorated sadly in recent years.

We're tremendously grateful to Senator Little for championing our cause. We also want to thank Steven Engelhart of Adirondack Architectural Heritage; Cam Eldred, executor of the Arto Monaco estate; and Randy Douglas, Town of Jay Supervisor, for helping us develop our proposal and for submitting letters of support.

We'll be working with the NYS Department of Parks over the next few months to coordinate the details of the project.

*Come along on
Arto's Way!*



*Become a
member today!*

Please send a check to:
The Arto Monaco
Historical Society
P.O. Box 102
Upper Jay, NY 12987

Membership levels:
\$25 Individual
\$15 Senior/student
\$35 Family
\$100 Supporting

**Contact us at:
Info@artomonaco.org**

Share a story, take a photo, pass the word along!

Thanks to the efforts of Terry Young, we've got a website! See www.artomonaco.org for articles about Arto, a growing collection of photos, and news about the organization.

We plan to use the website to assemble a **digital archive** of images related to Arto and his work. Visitors to the site can already click through the pages of a Land of Makebelieve mini-album and view a collection of circus toys he created. And there's more to come!

We've also purchased a cassette recorder, which members can use to **tape stories and reminiscences of Arto**. The recorder is stored at the Wells Memorial Library and can be

borrowed by anyone who has memories to share. This fall, member Rosamund Lincoln will get us started by conducting interviews with a few people who knew Arto well.

Volunteers needed: If you're interested in helping with either of these great projects, please contact Anne Mackinnon at info@artomonaco.org or Ellen Metcalf at (518) 946-7423.

Do you know people who share your interest in Arto? Send us their names and addresses (or email addresses), and we'll send them a newsletter!

About the Arto Monaco Historical Society . . .

The Arto Monaco Historical Society is dedicated to honoring Arto's memory and to perpetuating his legacy of art, creativity, wit, and fun.

Our objectives include preserving Arto's extraordinary artistic creations; coordinating projects that celebrate his memory; bringing together people who admire his work and share his love for the Adirondack region; and ensuring that his legacy is secured for future generations.

Our top priorities include:

- Studying the possibility of restoring the Land of Makebelieve castle
- Acquiring a collection of Arto's creations and making them available to the public
- Assembling a digital archive and collecting oral histories
- Building our membership!

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