

THE ENGAGER

Spring 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
FOR

The Wonderful Weekend of Oz!

OCTOBER 6-8



A Holly Near concert. An Oz quilt show. A traveling museum exhibit in local businesses. Films. The Grand Opening of the restored Gage Home. Oz scholars and Baum/Gage family members. Ribbon cutting for the Library of Feminism. And our annual fundraising auction at the elegant Wellington House. All this and more awaits you...

Holly Near will entertain us again (following her triumphant 2002 sold-out concert), with an uplifting evening featuring songs from her new CD, *Show Up*. The peace and social justice words of the *Oz* books will join with her music in encouraging us to find ways we can we work to create Gage's vision of a transformed

world. The 7:30 concert will be October 7 at H.W. Smith School.

During the day you will meander through the streets of the quaint Erie Canal village of Fayetteville visiting shops displaying *Oz* memorabilia from the Gage Foundation's Fred Meyer Collection and viewing the massive **Yellow Brick Road quilt show**. The sponsoring Towpath Quilt Guild and Calico Gals have challenged CNY quilters to create 150 one-of-a-kind quilts, individually designed for sale through an on-line auction to benefit the Gage Foundation. A theatre production, films and a seminar with Oz scholars are in the planning stages, so stay tuned for the final program.



*Meet the woman
who was ahead of the women
who were ahead of their time.*

Gloria Steinem

These are the words legendary feminist Gloria Steinem uses to describe Gage in the proposal for "Looking For Matilda Joslyn Gage in the 21st Century," the documentary film collaboration between The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation, Great Plains Productions, LLC and MonaInk Films, Inc.

Everyone knows the story of Dorothy, the innocent child swept away by a cyclone to *Oz*, the wondrous utopia where women prevail and men are *works in progress*. Curiously, the world of *Oz* is the portal through which we can find Gage--L. Frank Baum, Gage's son-in-law, wove her ideas into his fairy tales. In this documentary film, we will retrieve Gage's contributions to feminist theory, racial justice, and religious freedom while exploring her relationship to the strong women in Baum's work.

During the initial Research and Development phase, the filmmakers will determine the best way to tell the story, create a trailer that will be used to sell the film and find the most advantageous venue for its showing. If you'd like to support the making of the documentary, contact Sally Roesch Wagner at swagner711@aol.com.

**THE GAGE HOME IS NOW
OFFICIALLY A
PERMANENT MUSEUM**

**GO-AHEAD TO DEVELOP THE
LIBRARY OF FEMINISM**



The Fayetteville Board of Trustees granted permanent museum status to the Gage Home in February, followed by approval in March of a special use permit which will allow us to move our offices across the street to 109 Walnut, where we will begin the development of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Library of Feminism. We purchased this additional property with a loan from a generous supporter and will launch the Capital Campaign for acquisition and development in the fall, following the ribbon-cutting during the Oz Weekend. Pat Cross, our generous benefactress who made possible this vision of holding the history of the struggle for women's rights in one place, will be remembered during the weekend in a memorial service. This move allows us to begin the major restoration of the Gage Home.

Although the Gage Home will be closed during restoration, this summer we will be offering, by appointment, interpretation of the restoration and archeological dig in progress, along with walking tours of Gage sites in historic Fayetteville.

LIBRARY OF FEMINISM

Lori Brown, Assistant Professor in Architecture at Syracuse University, has a unique specialization: she is one of the only academic women in the country exploring feminist architecture. We are extremely fortunate that she has taken on as a project the designing of our Library of Feminism as a feminist space. On April 25 from 5:30-7 Dr. Brown will present her research and engage in brainstorming the initial space planning for the library and its relationship to the Gage House. Please come and share your ideas.



THE RESTORATION BEGINS

The Gage Foundation moves forward with the preparation of an Historic Structure Report, which will guide the restoration of the historic Gage Home at 210 East Genesee Street. Working from family correspondence, newspaper clippings, photos and family reminiscences, Syracuse University student and Gage Foundation Board member AnnMarie Leo is working with Executive Director Sally Roesch Wagner in piecing together the history of the home's use during Gage's occupancy from 1854-1898.

The house will be restored as closely as possible to 1887, the year *Oz* author (and Gage son-in-law) L. Frank Baum photographed the home's exterior and interior with a recently purchased Kodak home camera. Baum married the youngest Gage daughter, Maud, in the home's front parlor, and visited often during the five years the couple lived in Syracuse, including an extended visit during the summer of 1887 when he took the photos. The Gage Home is the only home in the country open to the public where Baum spent time. It is especially fitting that in 2006, the 150 anniversary of Baum's birth, the Gage Foundation is studying Baum's photos to restore the home.

The grand opening of the restored Gage Home will take place during the *Oz* Weekend, October 6-8, when you'll view the new, expanded exhibit area inside the shiny-bright, re-roofed and showplace home.



WE'LL MISS YOU, SUE!

How will we survive? This was our first thought when our #1 long-time volunteer Sue Boland announced she's heading to graduate school in the fall. Words like stalwart, indefatigable, committed and accomplished were created to describe people like Sue. A separate newsletter would be required to begin to document her gifts to the Foundation – from brilliant research and writing to docent coordinator and everything up to and including dish-washing. She is simply irreplaceable. We'll struggle on without her, and console ourselves with the thought that we're not losing our primary volunteer, we're gaining an expert who will return to us Thoroughly Educated, as the Wogglebug exclaims in the *Oz* books. Best of everything, Sue, and we'll be waiting with open arms.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 8 MEMBERS TO JOIN THE 2500 CLUB

There is an economic impact to our exciting move to 109 Walnut for house restoration, which will allow us to take occupancy of the back apartment and expand the museum to the full first-floor of the Gage Home. As the Foundation faces a \$25,000 loss of rental income this year, generous supporter Roberta Francis stepped up to bat. "I'll increase my yearly donation to \$2500 this year and challenge nine other Gage supporters to match it," Bobbie proclaimed. Gage descendant and long-time supporter Harry Carpenter answered the call. Now we have two down, eight to go. A special one-of-a-kind gift awaits the Club members. What a heritage-producing Mother's Day gift you can make in honor of a special woman in your life! Bobbie and Harry are hoping that by Mother's Day the 2500 Club will be filled, and remind you that there's always room for one more.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNDERGROUND RAILROAD COMMITTEE

The Underground Railroad Curriculum packet developed by our UGRR committee was runner up for the Oberlander Memorial Achievement Cup awarded by the Syracuse Federation of Women's Club for civic contributions by a member club in April. The committee presented their extensively researched material to student teachers and their cooperating master teachers of the Syracuse University Teaching and Leadership Studies Education Academy in January. Contact Grace Clancy at 458-5132 or gmm4521@aol.com if you'd like to work with the committee as they refine the curriculum packet and develop the materials into activities and programs for student groups visiting the Gage Home when we reopen in the fall.

FORT DRUM PROVIDES INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE



Noted archaeologist Dr. Laurie Rush, the Fort Drum Cultural Resources Coordinator, led a team of researchers and scientists from Fort Drum on April 13 to determine what structures may have existed on the Gage House property in the past. The assembled team used ground-penetrating radar and other remote sensing equipment to locate 19th century outbuildings no longer present on the property, and found, in preliminary analysis, what may be the site of the ice house, woodshed, garden house and a retaining wall. Identifying these former structures will help Kim determine where to dig this summer and next. The Gage Foundation was extremely fortunate to receive this unique service from the personnel at Fort Drum, and we are grateful.

DIG THIS SUMMER

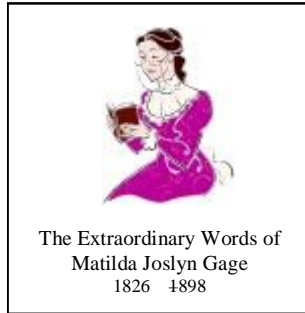
U. C. Berkeley graduate student (and SU graduate) Kim Christensen will be returning to the Gage House this summer to complete the preliminary archaeological excavations started on the property last summer. These small-scale excavations – the first archaeological work done on the property – are intended to provide a window onto the archaeological deposits left in the yard so that future excavations and restoration work can be planned.

Last summer Kim and volunteers working with her found a large number of artifacts across the property that would have been trash from the Gage household and those after them – including broken ceramics; window, bottle, and lamp glass; and animal bone. They also found the stone stoop to the woodshed that was attached to the rear of the house during the Gage family's time on the property, and what may be part of the foundation to the bay window that was on the Walnut Street side of the house. During the fall semester, fourteen undergraduate students at the University of California Berkeley helped Kim wash, sort, identify, and label all of the artifacts recovered from the excavations last summer, and now Kim is focusing on cataloguing these artifacts, the ceramics especially, and determining how old they are.



HONOR THE SPECIAL WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE THIS MOTHER'S DAY WITH A GIFT TO THE MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE FOUNDATION

For those special people who fulfill the role of mother for us, the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation this year offers you unique ways of paying tribute to these women who have enriched your life.



- For a \$25 tax-deductible contribution to the Gage Foundation we will send a beautiful, hand inscribed and addressed, full color Matilda Joslyn Gage quote card for Mother's Day to the woman you wish to honor r
- For a \$50 contribution, we will send the card and a gift-wrapped edition of "The Extraordinary Words of Matilda Joslyn Gage," - a wonderful collection of quotes and inspirations from our very own Matilda, printed in lovely fonts on clear matte acetate r
- For a \$2500 contribution, you will enshrine your honored woman in the 2500 CLUB, with a special one-of-a-kind gift and a public acknowledgment during the Wonderful Weekend of Oz, October 6-8, 2006 r
- A gift in memory of a woman you wish to honor may be sent to any person of your choosing r

Or choose a meaningful gift of women's history from our spectacular Baum and Reader Series Gifts.

By honoring your special woman, you will be contributing to the work we are doing to call forth the prophetic vision of Matilda Joslyn Gage.

Thank you for joining us in Daring to Seek Justice.

NAME: _____	ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____	_____
EMAIL: _____	_____
I have enclosed a check r	Number: _____
Please charge the total to my Visa r MasterCard r	Expiration: _____/_____
Please send this gift to:	
NAME: _____	ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____	_____
EMAIL: _____	_____
Your Special Message to the recipient:	

BUSY TIMES AT THE GAGE HOME

The Gage Home has been as busy this year as when Matilda lived here. From Girl Scout Troop 959 to the Womyn's Resource Center from Utica College to a San Francisco woman suffrage memorabilia collector and an Australian author, we have entertained a number of interested and interesting people. A series of informal conversations about the Land Rights action filed by the Onondaga Nation was made possible by a grant from the Central New York Community Foundation and hosted by Jeanne Shenandoah from the Onondaga Nation Information Center and Dr. Wagner.

An encore High Tea for Rosemary and Joe Agonitos' award winning novel, *Buffalo Calf Road Woman* raised funds and a presentation by Kim Christensen about the ongoing archaeological research at the Gage Home raised interest in the upcoming dig this summer. Board member Jack Manno, who is the Executive Director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium, hosted a salon with theologian, author (*Sacred Sands*) and leader in the global Earth Charter movement, Ron Engel.

THANKS TO YOU FOR ESTABLISHING A PROFITABLE PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to the number of our supporters who signed up for online shopping at www.ShopforMuseums.com, we won a national competition and received double donations in late 2005. That, combined with your shopping at over 200 of your favorite online stores during the holidays brought us a check for \$140.20. If all of you reading this who shop online sign up for the Gage Foundation as your favored charity through this partnership, we will effortlessly increase funding for operating expenses. *Try it!*

OUR PARTNERSHIPS:

- ◆ CNY Reads. Pick up your free copy of Miriam Grace Monfredo's UGRR novel, *North Star Conspiracy* at the Gage Home and check out www.library.syr.edu/cnyreads for the reading activities related to the book.
- ◆ "Onondaga Land Rights and Our Common Future," a year-long Collaborative Educational Series with Syracuse University, SUNY ESF and community sponsors. Go to www.peacecouncil.net/noon for the schedule.

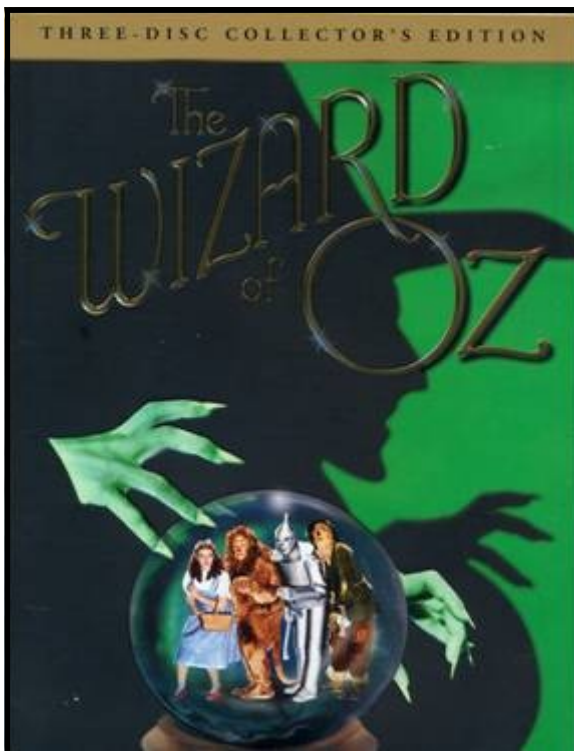
THANKS

Special thanks to (among others, please take a look at our website for a more complete list)

- ◆ Presenters at the Gage Birthday celebration: Board members **Lt. Governor Mary Anne Krupsak** and **Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffman** for their illuminating reflections on their long histories serving in New York political office. **Jack Manno** Executive Director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium and his informational "Onondaga Land Rights and Our Common Future: Healing our relationship to the earth and each other" and **Vanessa Johnson** for her inspiring UGRR singing/story-telling. And to **Old Country Buffet**, for hosting the fundraising event on March 22.
- ◆ **Inez Albanese**, Village of Fayetteville Board liaison with the Gage Foundation, who shepherded us through the maze of regulations and committees and brought us to museum status with a special use permit for the new office/library space.
- ◆ **AnnMarie Leo**, Syracuse Honors Program liaison, who has just been elected community service co-chair of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), and the partnership she will work to establish between the Foundation and NRHH next year. AnnMarie, who is a member of the Foundation Board, together with SU fraternities Community Service Chairs **Grant Krieder** from Alpha Tau Omega, and **Jason Goldberg** from Delta Tau Delta, continue to bring invaluable hours of volunteer services from SU to the Foundation. And thanks to the dozen students from **SU BIG Event** who cleaned our yard and basement.
- ◆ **Julianne Tasick** of the Manlius Historical Society and **Linda Ryan** of the Fayetteville Free Library for all their help as our volunteers research Gage family material at their sites, finding everything from newspaper articles by Gage to a reward for a plain gold ring lost by her son in 1866.



THE MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE HOME
 CELEBRATES THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
 Of the Birth Of
L. FRANK BAUM
 Author of *The Wizard of Oz*
 WITH
 Spectacular Mother's Day Gifts!



**LIMITED QUANTITY !
 SIGNED By John Fricke!
 JUST FOR GAGE
 SUPPORTERS!**

John Fricke produced the third DVD in this collector's edition DVD set entitled "The Man Behind The Curtain"; "a documentary of L. Frank Baum. The Gage Foundation receives photo credit. John signed this to thank you for supporting the Foundation.

RETAIL PRICE: \$49.92 PLUS TAX!

GAGE SUPPORTER PRICE

\$49.00 AND WE PAY THE TAX!



THE WORDS OF
 L. FRANK BAUM AND
 THE ARTISTRY OF ORNA
 PASCAL

Card
 (Blank)
 \$3.25

MAGNET
 \$5.50



"True courage is in facing danger when you are afraid." The Wizard to the Cowardly Lion.

JOURNAL \$7.50

"You know of course that courage is always inside one." The Wizard to the Cowardly Lion.

She bravely resolved not to turn back. Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz.

Experience is the only thing that brings knowledge and the longer you are on earth the more experience you are sure to get. The Wizard.

"I am careful to help all those who may need a friend." The Tin Man.

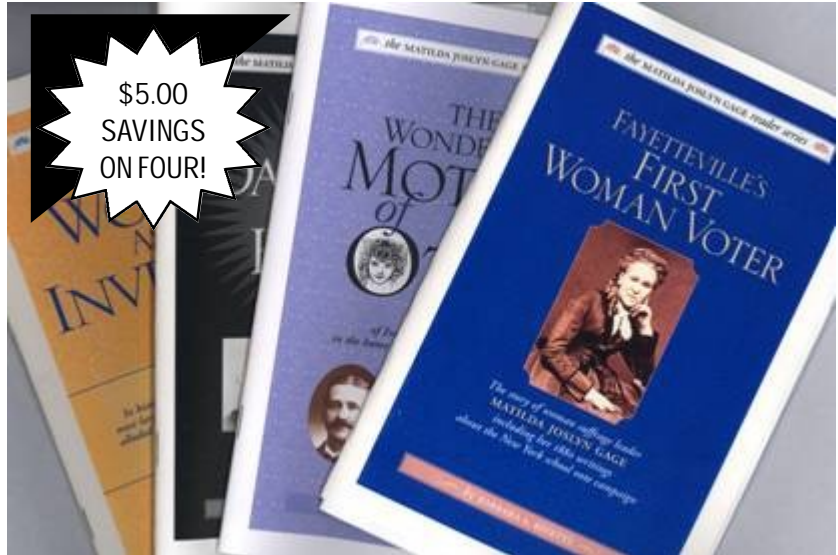


Gage Reader Series News!
Announcing the
release of

" Fayetteville's
First Woman
Voter"

By Historian Barbara S. Rivette

Matilda Joslyn Gage was given the honor of being the first woman voter of Fayetteville, New York, in 1880, forty years before the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing the right to vote for all female citizens of the United States. In fact, thousands of women in New York State voted throughout the 1880s and 1890s, long before woman suffrage was recognized in New York. How can this be? Historian Barbara S. Rivette answers that question in this newest Gage Reader Series.



ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Collector s Edition DVD of The Wizard of Oz signed by John Fricke	\$49.00		\$
Orna Oz Magnet	\$ 5.50		\$
Orna Oz Card (blank inside)	\$ 3.25		\$
Orna Oz Journal	\$ 7.50		\$
Orna Oz Set (Card, Magnet & Journal) save \$1.25!	\$15.00		\$
Reader #1: Woman as Inventor by Matilda Joslyn Gage	\$ 7.75		\$
Reader #2: Dangers of the Hour by Matilda Joslyn Gage	\$ 7.75		\$
Reader #3: The Wonderful Mother of Oz by Sally Roesch Wagner	\$ 7.75		\$
Reader #4: Fayetteville s First Woman Voter by Barbara S. Rivette	\$ 7.75		\$
READER SERIES SPECIAL: Specify Titles and Qty Below (\$14 / \$21 / \$26)	\$		\$
I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE GAGE DOCUMENTARY FILM	\$		\$
I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GENERAL DONATION	\$		\$
I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE 2500 CLUB!	\$2,500		\$
Shipping Charges (see below)	\$		\$
TOTAL			\$

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EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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Please charge the total to my Visa r MasterCard r
Mail to: The MJG Foundation
PO Box 192, Fayetteville, NY 13066

Number: _____
Expiration: _____ / _____
Or call: 637-9511

Orders up to \$24 add \$4.95 Shipping
Orders from \$25 to \$74 add \$6.96 Shipping

Orders \$75 and over add \$8.95 Shipping