

They hadn't yet made the move when then-board member Tom Joyner approached her about serving on the Historical Society Board. He thought her expertise and qualifications would make her an asset to the SHS. Qualifications indeed: For more than a decade, Sue had been managing Muscoot Farm, a 777-acre farm and historical site owned by Westchester County Department of Parks with cows, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, and a plethora of poultry. Free to the public, and open seven days a week, Muscoot hosts 140,000 visitors annually. One of the best things about running Muscoot Farm, she will tell you, was that "no day was the same as the next; every day was an adventure."

While working for Westchester she also taught programs at the Tarrytown Lighthouse, Washington's Headquarters in White Plains, as well as at many of the County's nature centers. Along the way, she received her masters in Organizational Leadership from Mercy College and her certification from the University of Georgia in Executive Development for Park Professionals. Sue spent many years teaching outdoor education both as a volunteer in the local elementary schools and for Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES at Madden.

Apparently, Tom Joyner's gentle if tenacious brand of persistence paid off and by the time the Mogas moved to Sherman in 2014, Sue was convinced to join the board. "Having run a Historical site," Sue said, "I felt I'd have something to offer and enjoy doing while learning more about Sherman." In 2015, she retired from Muscoot, after a good and full 15-year run.

This year, Sue assumes the role of Society President. When asked why she chose to do so, she said, "In my study of leadership I realized that leadership hinges on service. I want to create opportunities for others to get involved in the Historical Society in ways that excite them. Working for the Westchester County Department of Parks in the Conservation Division allowed me to educate and serve at the same time, which was very rewarding." Asked what she would bring to the position, she replied, "My interest in history came from working at Muscoot Farm and being immersed in the agricultural history of this area. Due to the 'throw-away' culture of our society, the spirit of preservation seems to be diminishing. I see so much value in understanding and preserving our past to enrich our future, so I decided to direct my energy into enhancing the role of the Society in helping the younger generations appreciate their heritage. We added a 'Hooked on History' program for the younger children modeled on the well-established Kids at the Cobbler Shop."

Talk of service brings up the importance of volunteerism, as the Historical Society is a volunteer-run organization. "Volunteerism allows you the opportunity to go outside of yourself as you serve others. It is an important part of who we are as people. Many organizations could not exist without their volunteers to help carry out its mission. It is more important than ever now, since more people work and it is harder and harder to find volunteers. It is equally important for younger people to begin to volunteer and the Society offers many opportunities both at the Northrop House and with our Summer Programs." Talk of such youth-involvement makes Sue's eyes light up. "What excites me is the opportunity to bring the next generation into the Society to learn about the richness of its history, their roots, and its many facets. Also, I want to get them excited about getting more involved and eventually to become the future leaders and stewards of Sherman's history."

And now that she and Jerry, her husband of 49 years, are fully settled in Sherman, and she takes the lead at SHS, she says of her adopted home, "We love the small town aspect of Sherman, as it is very similar to the small town feel I grew up with [in Croton Falls, NY]. I can walk to almost everything in town; the people are so warm and friendly; and as a kayaker who also taught Outdoor Education for many years, the opportunities to be on the water or in the woods are plentiful."

To Sue, we say, "We welcome you and Jerry to our Town and we are enriched to have you as part of the

Historical Society.”

We are pleased to include as part of our board, Susan Lang, as treasurer, and Lori Finck as Secretary. These capable ladies join Sue as President, and existing members: Cindy Rosa, Vice President; Jan Desiato, Erich Diller, Liz Mard, Eileen O’Connell, Joni Taylor, Gail Turro, and Ginny Zellner. Our honorary Board Members are Gloria Thorne, John Jenner, Alice Schneckenburger, and recent retiree Betty Beatty—all who have served long and well for the Society. We plan on profiling members of our Board, so you all can learn a little more about the dedicated and caring people that work so hard for the Society.