

February 2024 | Issue 27

The Groundhog Saw His Shadow

This month we are excited for Spring to be here in six short weeks. The below photos show how beautiful the park is when it is undisturbed.

The greenhouses are getting prepared for the April 6th and 7th Orchid Show. Meet orchid experts from the Genesee Valley Orchid Society, stroll through the greenhouse and arboretum as well as the Bay House Gift Shop filled with orchids to purchase.

Every Tuesday the year-round volunteers, known as, The Clumps, have helped with seeding our annual flowers and beautifying the greenhouses with our historic collection.

We are busy inviting artists to this year's Arts At The Gardens, planning the Fathers Day Carshow, writing a public grant for the Moonlight Strolls, and much more before we kick off the 2024 garden season.



2023 Annual Report

Sonnenberg Gardens had a good 2023 Gardens Season. Our gate attendance is steady at above 30,000 guests who came as visitors to the park. We opened for the season on May 1st and closed on October 30th for a five-day schedule last year. Sonnenberg did have a good year in community sponsorships and our private event season was able to hit the budget for the 2023 season. Our individual contributions and in-kind contributions have been steady throughout the 2023 season but had a wonderful increase in business contributions overall at \$185,000 for operations as well as funds for historic preservation and general project work. If you would like more information regarding any of our planned giving programs or memorial contributions, please get in touch with David Hutchings, Executive Director, at director@sonnenberg.org or 585-394-4922 ext 7.

We had some growth in 2023 with the EPF matching grant of 490K award which we have completed our match of \$98,000 in 2023. We received two notable operations and conservation grants in a \$34,000 ZBGA grant for the arboretum collection and the second half of a stewardship grant for digitizing our historic collections and archives from Parks and Trails NY. We are always grateful for the smaller grants from Auburn Public Theatre, Wegmans, and Thompson Health Foundation to assist with our mission-driven programs. The Board of Trustees and staff are encouraged by the positive results of so many of these efforts this season as well as the charitable trust gift to bolster our future as a non-profit.

We all look forward to the further restoration of Sonnenberg’s physical property in 2024 with the waterway restoration project continuing with the Rock Garden. This project is in the final phase and is now completed and we will be lining and rebuilding a portion of the Rock Garden pool. This year a restroom wing for the public will be completed at the Administration Complex adjacent to the Admissions Booth.

We remain the #1 Ontario County tourist destination and growing as a regional destination as a public garden with the historical home of the Thompson Estate.

We look forward to opening again in 2024 as our non-profit celebrates our 51st anniversary continuing to herald the story of Frederick and Mary Clark Thompsons’ legacy in Canandaigua. Thank you to all the volunteers, members, and the community who support us with our continued success.

Support & Revenue

Contributions	321,530
In-Kind Contributions	4,720
Arts at the Gardens	31,333
Admission	229,449
Wedding & Events	178,964
Gift Shop & Wine Sales	83,964
Membership Dues	45,990
Programs & Sponsorships	105,163
Other Income/Investment Inc-Loss	(86,951)
Restricted Funds Released	30,412
Total Public Support & Income	944,574

Expenses

Salaries & Compensation	397,786
Retail Merchandise & Wine	37,627
Marketing & Promotional	29,648
Collections	3,066
Repairs & Maintenance	29,975
Operational Costs	301,307
Total Expenses	799,409



2022 Audited Financials

With LOVE in the Air...

We are running a special in February and March for \$10 off any level membership. For love that can spread all year long...press the button below to purchase a membership. Thank you for all the support from our community and members!



**ENJOY
\$10 OFF**

Enter Coupon Code: **MEMBERLOVE**
at the top of checkout page for discount

Membership Sale

Orchid Show 2024

The Orchid Show this year is scheduled for April 6-7, 2024 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate the arrival of Spring at Sonnenberg Gardens. Meet orchid experts from the Genesee Valley Orchid Society, stroll through the greenhouse and arboretum as well as the Bay House Gift Shop filled with orchids to purchase.



Calling All Artists

We are excited to announce that Artist Applications are now being accepted for Sonnenberg's 23rd annual Arts At The Gardens. This show takes place on the grounds of Sonnenberg Historic Mansion and Gardens, a 54-acre estate with flower-filled gardens, majestic trees, and a magnificent mansion that is well-established as one of the area's top tourist attractions.



Our 23rd Arts At The Gardens is founded on the belief that the arts, both natural and manmade, enrich human life and create an environment where people and ideas thrive. Sonnenberg Gardens creates an annual exhibition dedicated to raising awareness of the Arts in this naturalistic environment at the Thompson estate.

The dates for this year's show are Saturday, July 20th, and Sunday, July 21st, 2024.

Artist booth setup will be open on Friday, July 19th from 12 - 8 p.m. This will ensure ample time for the ground's preparations.

The application fee is waived until April 1st. Following that date, there will be a \$35 application fee. Single-artist booths are available for \$275, and a limited number of double booths are also available.

This year will also see the return of the Emerging Artist Tent. This is intended as an opportunity for artists who have not professionally shown their work at an art fair prior to this year. Emerging artists will have a dedicated space, with a table and chairs provided at a reduced fee of \$100.

Information & the online application are available below:

Sonnenberg Named Winner in 2024 WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards

Sonnenberg Gardens



Thank you to our volunteer wedding team
and trusted vendors for the support.
This couldn't have been achieved without you.

16th Annual Couples' Choice Awards Honors the Top Wedding Vendors Nationwide and Abroad, an accolade representing the top wedding professionals across the board in quality, service, responsiveness, and professionalism reviewed by couples on WeddingWire, a leading wedding vendor marketplace.

To determine these distinguished wedding professionals, WeddingWire analyzed reviews within its Vendor Directory across more than 20 service categories—from venues and caterers to florists and photographers—to find the most- and highest-rated vendors of the year. The winners exhibit superior professionalism, responsiveness, service, and quality.

This is Sonnenberg's 9th Couples' Choice Award. We would like to thank our amazing wedding team of volunteer tram drivers, docents, and check-in concierges who give our guests the VIP treatment for

our private events.

Sonnenberg In The News

You've never seen New York like this: Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion (Video)
We were lucky enough to connect with Scott Trimble, a video journalist at syracuse.com | NYup.com | Post-Standard and he came in with another drone operator and took some amazing footage last season.

[Drone Video](#)

Your gift today will support our beautiful gardens, historic mansion, and daily operations which are \$2,500 a day all year long. Our mission is to remain one of our nation's most extensively preserved estates and a premier tourism destination in Upstate New York.

For membership and donations please click below:

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Visit our website



Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park | 250 Gibson Street, Canandaigua, NY
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