Yes! I would like to support Grant Cottage with a tax-deductible donation of $_________.

☐ Check enclosed

☐ Yes, I would like to subscribe to Friends of Grant Cottage e-mail updates.

Make your Donation to support Grant Cottage today by mailing the attached form to PO Box 2294, Wilton, NY 12831 or by going to grantcottage.org/take-action

STATE HISTORIC SITE
The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage

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Thank you for supporting Grant Cottage! This giving season, please consider making a donation to The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage to help us continue to offer educational experiences and share Grant’s story.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

We are excited to open on time this season, especially because we will have an expanded parking lot. Last year, we were delayed six weeks by the installation of the Fire Suppression system and that cost us some revenue from Cottage tours. (And, of course, $1.2 million in construction costs, $250,000 of which came from a gift from a generous donor, and long-time benefactor.) As you know, the Cottage was awarded the 4.2 acre “Exercise Yard” from the prison back in 2021 and we have been gradually getting permission from the state to use this land for various events. By the way, this July is the tenth anniversary of the closing of the Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility. So, I’m sure you’re thinking, it’s about time you put that place to better use. We agree.

We removed razor wire from the top of the fence, we cut an entryway in a section of the fence to allow guided tours of the grounds where the Balmoral Hotel once stood and now, we are working on the old inmate basketball court as a new, overflow parking lot. As you can imagine, additional parking has always been a priority for us, and since we are prevented from expanding slots in front of the Visitor’s Center, this new use of the prison property is our best option.

We also intend to build an educational pavilion somewhere on this new property, but that’s going to take some fundraising. I welcome your ideas for securing the money to take U.S. Grant Cottage to the next level as we continue to expand the shrine for the Man Who Saved the Union.

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2024 will be an exciting year for Grant Cottage. Four new color interpretive panels will be added to the site. Under consideration is an online auction fundraiser with many Grant items included, and many other offerings. Look for more information on our website, social media, and your email. We continue to move forward on our new pavilion - look for a timetable and announcements to come.

There are many ways to support Grant Cottage. Visit our website to learn more about our Adopt-A-Bench program, Sponsorship, and more.

See you on the mountain!
The 2024 Season will open on Grant’s birthday, April 27th! The Friends of Grant Cottage offer Tours of the Cottage interior starting at 10 a.m., with the last Tour of the day starting promptly at 3:30 p.m. Cottage Tours run every 30 minutes.

APRIL 27 THROUGH MAY 26
*OPEN Monday, May 27th
MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 29 THROUGH JULY 14
Wednesday – Sunday
*OPEN Monday May 29th and Thursday – Sunday

JULY 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1
Tuesday - Sunday
*OPEN Monday September 2nd and Thursday – Sunday

SEPTEMBER 3 THROUGH OCTOBER 27
*OPEN Monday October 1st and Thursday – Sunday
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY

(Private Tours are available on non-operating days by appointment ONLY)

For more information on tour times, admission, or to purchase tickets go to
www.grantcottage.org

FROM THE TREASURER’S DESK

Looking forward, we’ll be trying to raise additional funds for several projects at the Cottage, including a new Educational Pavilion and Overlook on the site of the old prison ballfield. In the short term, we still need your support just to cover our operating expenses. Like most museums and historic sites, admissions only cover a fraction of our expenses (in our case about 25%). We want to make sure the site continues to be accessible to all, so we can’t raise admission prices. We therefore rely on your memberships, donations, and sponsorships, to keep our doors open and carry out our educational mission. How can you help?

• Make sure your membership is current. Consider a higher level of membership.
• Donate to the Friends. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit and your donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
• If you have an IRA account and have reached the age requiring mandatory distributions, you may be able to donate and avoid tax on the distribution, even if you don’t itemize your deductions. Talk to your tax professional to see if you are eligible.
• Have you considered making a bequest in your will to the Cottage?
• Do you know of any companies that might be interested in becoming a Sponsor?
• Does your employer offer matching grants on your contributions?
• Do you know of any foundations or philanthropies that might support Living History?

Please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas or for more information as to how you can help us, at treasurer@grantcottage.org.

FROM THE VISITOR CENTER

OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

We are excited as we welcome visitors back to the mountain for 2024! A lot has been accomplished during the last few years at the historic site, yet there are no signs of slowing down. With your help, the site can reach more visitors than ever before and accomplish major infrastructure goals to improve the site for everyone’s benefit. New interpretive materials and experiences will be highlighted this season, with our Victorian Strolls and new information panels providing fresh incentives to visit and dig deeper into the intriguing history of the site. With a schedule that includes signature events, including the celebration of the Centennial of New York State Parks, 2024 is shaping up to be a banner year. The Friends of Grant Cottage are currently seeking more volunteers to engage with visitors in a variety of ways and help give them a positive and meaningful experience. For more information on volunteering and to apply please visit: grantcottage.org/volunteer

2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

VISITOR CENTER DISPATCH

Even though the site is closed for 6 months in the winter, the staff is busy in the off-season preparing for a great 2024 at the Cottage. Look for new branded products in the gift shop, and some exciting new books will be on the shelves. You know you can always shop online on our website by visiting grantcottage.org/shop—to support or call for information about operations and purchases. Come up and see us!

Contact us for more information!