

**FRIENDS OF HISTORIC GROOMS TAVERN**  
**P.O. Box 1166**  
**Clifton Park, NY 12065**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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The Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern, a not-for-profit association dedicated to the restoration of Grooms Tavern, hosts a presentation by Marilyn Sassi on Antique Toys on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00 p.m., Grooms Tavern, on the corner of Grooms and Sugar Hill Roads in Rexford, NY.

Toys reflect the adult world in miniature, and the era in which they were popular. Pull toys from the nineteenth and early twentieth century are farm animals and represent the agrarian life that was dominant at the time. On such pull toy, a miniature cow on wheels, covered with cowhide, has a trap door in its back so that a small amount of milk could be added and the child could actually milk the pull toy cow.

During the first half of the twentieth century trains were the chief method of transporting both people and freight. An electric train set was the Christmas wish of every boy. Toy cars and trucks resembled the styles popular at the time, and today are very collectible.

Popular culture influenced the popularity of toys. In the 1930s, movies made Shirley Temple every child's idol and dolls in her likeness were acquired by girls everywhere. In fact there was a whole line of Shirley Temple merchandise. This is much like the toys that were promoted by popular TV shows of the 70s and 80s. It seems like every action hero had its doll or action figure that could move in multiple ways. Paper dolls of movie stars and celebrities were also produced.

In the days before TV and video games and pocket computers, board games were king. You would sit around the table with friends and family to play Monopoly, Clue, Easy Money, or perhaps Chutes and Ladders. Other board games were patterned after popular TV shows of the 60s, 70s and 80s. Board games of the 30s and 40s might reflect super heroes popular at the time. One board game called "Titanic," required you to escape the ship in a timely fashion before it sunk.

If you would like a trip down memory lane to your childhood when toys and games were much simpler, join us on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Feel free to bring one of your favorite toys. Refreshments will be served.