

HOME & STYLE

Elizabeth Kahn, Assistant Managing Editor
849-5576 • ekahn@buffnews.com

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Susan Martin

FROM THE HOME FRONT

Save the date for must-do events

When I was young, one of the first things I would do when I got my hands on a new calendar in January was flip to my birthday to see what day it fell on that year.

If it was during or close to a weekend, it felt like a gift. If it was on a Tuesday, well, not so much.

These days, calendars are just as likely to be electronic as they are paper, but January still is the time to look ahead and plan – beyond birthdays, mind you.

This year promises several local home- and garden-related events to make note of now.

For starters, it's a show house year.

The 2009 Decorators' Show House, co-sponsored by the Junior League of Buffalo and The Buffalo News, will be open April 25 to May 17.

The house – E.B. Green's Wallace Estate – is located at 697 LeBrun Road, Eggertsville – the first time a featured

Show House home has been located outside the city of Buffalo.

But you don't have to wait until spring to take a look.

A Sneak Peek Preview of the undecorated house

More than 300 gardens will be featured in this year's Garden Walk Buffalo in July.

will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 7 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 8.

Tickets will be available for \$5 at the door during those times. Or, for \$16, you can buy a gift ticket that includes admission to both the Sneak Peek and the completed Show House.

These combo tickets are available online at jlbuffalo.org; at Junior League headquarters, 45 Elmwood Ave.; by calling the Junior League at 884-8865, or from Junior League members.

Tickets for the completed Show House alone are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

This is the 15th Decorators' Show House. The event, which happens every two years, is a biggie – raising more than \$3 million for local charitable projects since the first show house opened in 1981.

And there's plenty more.

Plantasia 2009 – a garden and landscape show produced by the Western New York State Nursery and Landscape Association – takes place March 26 to 29 at the Agri-Center on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg.

Highlights include themed gardens, educational seminars, the Children's Discovery Garden and a garden market for shopping. For information, visit plantasiany.com

And don't forget to mark down Garden Walk Buffalo, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 25 and 26.

More than 300 gardens are featured, and the event is free. Planners currently are looking for artwork to use on posters, T-shirts and maps (see today's Garden Notes for details).

There are plenty of other garden tours in Western New York so keep an eye on this section for more information in the coming months.

Other events:

- The Amaryllis & Cymbidium Show opens Saturday and continues through Feb. 8 at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave. For more information, call 827-1584 or visit www.buffalogardens.com.

- The Orchid Show & Sale, also at the Botanical Gardens, runs Feb. 28 to March 1. It is presented by the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society, along with the Botanical Gardens.

- The Buffalo Home & Garden Show runs Feb. 28 to March 8 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center (buffalohomeshow.com).

Oh, and Happy Birthday!

e-mail: smartin@buffnews.com