

Bethlehem Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017



The Bethlehem Historical Association

Cedar Hill Schoolhouse
1003 River Road
P.O. Box 263
Selkirk, NY 12158
(518) 767-9432
bethhist1965@gmail.com
BethlehemHistorical.org

OFFICERS

President: Karen Beck
Vice President: Wendy Brandow
Recording Secretary:
Sue Gutman
Corresponding Secretary:
Sharon Sestak
Treasurer: Tim Beebe

TRUSTEES

Tim Beebe
Debbie Croscup
Charles Fuller
Carl Gutman
Norma June
Dawn Pratt
Bill Seyler

Newsletter Editors
Beth Anderson, Karen Beck,
Faith Fuller & Susan Leath



*Live for Today
Dream for Tomorrow
Learn from Yesterday*



See It All “Over There”...

at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse Museum. Our new exhibits feature a look back at life one hundred years ago. Marvel at the changes wrought in just a century’s time. Rejoice in the displays of sheet music. Remember, there were no radios and televisions. Music was a part of most everyone’s lives whether it was through voice or instrument. Peruse different facets of the war effort: the Women’s Land Army, Victory Loan Certificates, and the Red Cross. Many of these tasks were undertaken by women, due to the absence of the men fighting overseas. And yet, women did not have the right to vote. Be sure to see the suffrage banner urging the public to give women the vote. Look at an authentic kitchen scene and be thankful for many of our modern day conveniences (the clothes iron is very heavy!).

War-related displays include WWI era German souvenirs, US military uniforms, Gold and Blue star pennants, and an interesting look into the 52nd Balloon Company. Rounding out the WWI tribute is a poignant display of Bethlehem’s Last Man’s Club which includes the cognac bottle to be consumed by the last surviving member of the WWI veterans and the wooden box lovingly handcrafted to hold its precious cargo as the club members dwindled. There is so much to see. Spend some time on a Sunday afternoon to see how our town residents lived a century ago. *The Cedar Hill Schoolhouse Museum is open Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. through October 29.*

Annual Meeting & Dinner

The annual meeting and dinner was held at the Nathaniel Blanchard Post on May 18. Sixty-two members and friends came to enjoy the cash bar and delicious dinner catered by Jim Frese. Arrangements were skillfully handled by chairman, Sharon Sestak. The tables were beautifully decorated by Faith Fuller, and Ralph Folger prepared a slide show of scenes in town. Adding to the fun, many door prizes, all donated by the Executive Committee, were raffled.



Charlie Fuller and Bill Seyler enjoy a laugh at the Annual Dinner.

Officers and one trustee were elected as follows: President – Karen Beck, Vice President – Wendy Brandow, Recording Secretary – Sue Gutman, Corresponding Secretary – Sharon Sestak, Treasurer – Tim Beebe, and Trustee – Deborah Croscup

Thanks and appreciation were extended to Sheila Giordano who leaves the Board of Trustees as her term ends. Sheila is a long-time member of BHA. She served as president in the early 90's and has always been a willing worker at our events. Thank you Sheila!

Charlie Fuller, our good natured, modest Building and Grounds Chair, recently celebrated a big birthday. Drive by the museum and chances are, you will find Charlie there. He might be painting the ramp, fixing lights for an exhibit, building a new bulletin board, spreading compost, dealing with water in the basement..... the possibilities are endless.



Happy Birthday, Dear Charlie, and thank you for all you do!

Thank you from the HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



Hospitality chairs, Kathy Newkirk and Dawn Pratt, thank all those who helped make the **Silver Tea** a total success. Our bakers provided excellent goodies. Special thanks go to Carrie-Lynn VanApeldoorn and Jessica Hogan for their help serving and in the kitchen.

PICTURED above from left to right: Carrie-Lynn VanApeldoorn, Kathy Newkirk, Jessica Hogan and Dawn Pratt

Garden Project

The Executive Committee has decided it is time to turn our attention to the grounds around the Schoolhouse. The entrance area has been designated as the first phase.

Sue Gutman and Faith Fuller volunteered to join this new garden committee.



Local garden designer and BHA member, Sandra Zwink, suggested plant material, that at our request, focuses on native plants and some favorite old-fashioned perennials suited to the historic schoolhouse setting. The Town Highway Department

began by removing some overgrown shrubbery and delivering soil amendments.

This project received an enormous boost when our friends at the Bethlehem Garden Club gave us \$800 to support the effort. We are very appreciative of this generous donation, given in true community spirit.

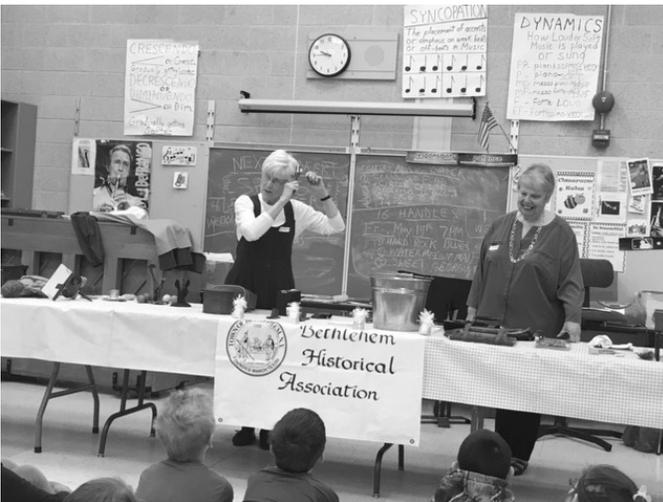
In the meantime, however, Town officials met with us about some building concerns. As a result, the Town intends to replace the damaged and unsightly front steps and railings. Also, a drainage pipe needs to be installed along that south wall. The planting has had to be postponed until these necessary projects have been completed. We know it will be worth the wait! Keep watching!

PHOTO: Karen Beck BHA president, receives a check from Garden Club members Marcy Corneil and Ellie Prakken.

Young Historians

Debbie Croscup and Linda Davies, co-chairs of the Bethlehem Historical Association Education Committee, were delighted to be invited to share local history with elementary students using pictures and artifacts. Their presentations centered on the histories of many of the local one-room schoolhouses as well as the lives of school children and their teachers. The pictures depict life in the Town of Bethlehem in the 1800s and early 1900s while the artifacts allowed the students to experience how times have changed by comparing “then and now” items such as a bookstrap and backpack. Town Historian Susan Leath and other members of the Bethlehem Historical Association generously loaned items to enhance the presentations in order to make history come alive.

Debbie and Linda were invited to AW Becker, Glenmont, Hamagrael, and Slingerlands Elementary Schools where the students were very well behaved and enthusiastic to learn more about their town. These educators are eager to resume their classroom visits in the fall.



Getting Organized

When you visit the museum to take in our new exhibits this summer, be sure to check out our new research and storage center. It is still a work in progress, but you will notice the new cabinets that will keep our paper based collections organized (and out of the basement!). Properly managing our collection is an important mission and we are making good progress getting policies and procedures in place, our database updated, and items correctly stored and accessible.



Out and About

Out and About was a new addition to our programming this year. Every other month, our able coordinator, Vicki Folger, set up a visit to a local site of historic interest. She organized the time and place. Any cost and limitations on group size was determined by the destination. Attendees made their own travel arrangements, which usually involved carpooling and might have included a stop for lunch after the tour.

All in all, it has been a pleasant learning and social experience. We have visited the Bronck House in Coxsackie, the Ten Broeck Mansion when it was decorated for the holidays, the Albany County Hall of Records, The Burden Iron Works Museum in Troy and Grant’s Cottage in Wilton.

We plan to continue going “Out and About” next season. Won’t you consider joining us? Do you have suggestions for places you might like to have included on the schedule? Let Vicki know!



Memorial Day Parade

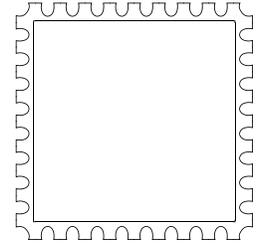
We had fun in the rain at the Memorial Day Parade. Pictured carrying our banner are Susan Leath and Karen Beck. Also parading were Wendy Brandow, Susan Gutman, and Nancy Newkirk.

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COMING EVENTS

**The Cedar Hill Schoolhouse Museum is
OPEN
Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m.
through October 29.**

**History Hikes and Paddles continue through
this summer and into the fall. Visit our website
for details.**

July 8, 9:30 AM: History Hike in Delmar Four Corners
July 29, 9:30 AM: History Paddle on the Hudson River
August 5, 9:30 AM: History Hike in Slingerlands
August 24, 6:30 PM: History Paddle on the Hudson River
September 9, 9:30 AM: History Hike in South Bethlehem
October 14, 9:30 AM: History Hike in Normansville
November 5, 9:30 AM: History Hike in Delmar.

Town Historian Susan Leath leads the History
Paddles on the Hudson River and Volmankill.

World War I Table Top War Games July 23 and September 24, 2 p.m. at the museum

On Sunday, July 23rd, players of any age (under 12 with an adult) can show up at the Cedar Hill School about 2 PM to command a battleship of the US Navy, or one from the Imperial German High Seas Fleet. The ships are tiny, but the rules are easily learned, and give a very good idea of what battle in the mists and smoke of the North Sea was like.

On Sunday, September 24th, players can take to the skies over the Adriatic Sea as pursuit planes and bombers of Italy's Regia Aeronautica. They'll battle it out with the fliers of the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Luftfahrtruppen. The tiny 1/144 scale planes are a colorful reminder of just how drab modern air combat has become. And how impersonal.

For further information or to reserve a spot at the table, please call Robert Mulligan at 439-3802.



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