



# FROM THE BELLTOWER

*The Newsletter of the Friends of the  
North Brookfield Town House*

March/April 2023 Vol 1 Issue 1



*Welcome to the First Issue of the Friends Newsletter*

## *The Friends Gather Artists*

The Friends of the Town House held their first Arts Community Gathering on March 5<sup>th</sup>. People involved with the arts were introduced to our amazing project: the restoration of the North Brookfield Town House as a regional cultural center.

An original slide presentation by Jim Buzzell told of the rich history of this iconic building and its great potential to entertain, heal, and revitalize our rural community with its Great Hall performance space, its classroom and workshop space, and its space for a restaurant and offices.

Bonnie Milner and Eva Brown spoke about ROAR – Rural Opportunities Through Art and Restoration – the pilot programming being held off-site at present, and the many opportunities ROAR programs and the restored Town House holds for area creatives. Following the presentation, a lively discussion ensued with questions and answers for participants and suggestions for the Friends.



We hope to hold other Gatherings. If you are interested in attending one, please notify us at [friends@nbtownhouse.com](mailto:friends@nbtownhouse.com)

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## Cool Kids are ROAR-ing Once Again

After a successful 10-week program in the fall and a standing-room-only presentation before the holidays, the Cool Kids Choir (CKC) has begun meeting once again after school on Tuesdays in the North Brookfield Elementary School Auditorium from 2:30-4:00. Children

do not have to attend the North Brookfield schools to participate in this award-winning music program which is free for all children in the region from Grades 1-5.

CKC uses popular music as a catalyst for personal and collective joyful expression. Through music children are encouraged to tell important life stories while uncovering, learning, and incorporating valuable life skills such as teamwork, tenacity, and mutual respect. Bonnie Milner of Long View Entertainment is one of CKC’s original creators and directors of the program which has inspired and amplified the voices of hundreds of area young people over the span of decades.

Watch our Facebook page for news of the Cool Kids next public performance the end of March or the beginning of April.

*CKC is offered through a partnership between ROAR (Rural Opportunity through Art and Restoration), the North Brookfield Schools and Long View Entertainment. For more information about Cool Kids Choir and ROAR contact Eva Brown at 508-826-6924.*

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## Watch This Space . . . . .

The Friends have been working with Graphic Designer Glenna Stocks to brighten the Town House windows. For too many years the potential of the vacant windows has not been tapped. Glenna is tasked with creating attractive, informational window designs that will highlight the building’s history and our plans for the future, while announcing upcoming events and celebrating successes.



Watch the Town House windows and this Newsletter for more information as Glenna moves ahead with this exciting project.



## Meet Sou MacMillan – The Friends' New Membership Chair

The big city's loss is our small town's gain. Moving from Worcester's Vernon Hill in 2019, Stacey (Sou) MacMillan, her husband Bill, and son Liberty have found the perfect spot in North Brookfield to seed, plant, cook and preserve their garden's bounty as they craft a beautiful, creative life. Sou tends the chickens and goats while making time to illustrate cards and stickers and write poetry and fiction. The name of their homestead, Mailers Landing, comes from one of her stories and provides the title for the MacMillan's YouTube channel and posts on Instagram and Facebook. Bill turns wooden pieces when he is not curating Arms and Armor exhibits for the Worcester Art Museum, and Liberty also works with wood at a maker's space in Leicester. Welcome, Sou, and thank you for bringing your many talents to the Membership Committee of the Friends of the Town House and to the ROAR program.

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## Announcing the Town House YouTube Channel Featuring Local Artists, Musicians, and Creatives

The Town House  
**EXCITING NEWS!**  
The NB Town House has a new YouTube Channel!  
We are currently producing a series featuring local artists, musicians, and creatives

BECOME A SUBSCRIBER OR A PARTICIPANT.

**VIEW LOCAL TALENT! OR SHOWCASE YOUR WORK**

For more information send us an email [friends@nbtownhouse.com](mailto:friends@nbtownhouse.com)

If you are a creative and you want to be showcased on our channel, please contact us at [friends@nbtownhouse.com](mailto:friends@nbtownhouse.com)

The YouTube channel was made possible by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council.



# Upcoming Events - Please Join Us

Private Town House Tour with Jim – April 1<sup>st</sup> – email the Friends to register  
Friends of the Town House Monthly Meetings – April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>  
May Fest – May 6<sup>th</sup>  
Bemis Nursery Spring Workshop – June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm

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## Support Restoration

*Revitalization, Education, and Creativity in our Community*

## Become a Friends of the Town House Member

[friends@nbtownhouse.com](mailto:friends@nbtownhouse.com)

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address for updates: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual [\$25] \_\_\_\_ Family [\$50] \_\_\_\_ Lifetime Member [\$200] \_\_\_\_ Business/Organization [\$200] \_\_\_\_

Signature (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Included \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to get involved:      Fundraising \_\_\_\_                      Membership \_\_\_\_  
   Capital Campaign \_\_\_\_                      Programs/Classes \_\_\_\_  
   Special Events \_\_\_\_                      Outreach to the community and potential supporters \_\_\_\_

I have time:    weekly \_\_\_\_    monthly \_\_\_\_    one time/event \_\_\_\_

Please describe any special skills or talents you have: \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House is a 501(c)(3) organization supported entirely by the generosity of our members and donors, and the success of annual fundraising events.*

**Friends of the North Brookfield Town House**  
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