



FROM THE BELLTOWER

The Newsletter of the Friends of the
North Brookfield Town House

Summer 2023 Vol 1 Issue 3



The Theater Guild Steps Up in Support of the Town House



The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House
would like to thank the
Theater Guild of North Brookfield
and all the patrons of the wonderful Willy Wonka
production for your support of the Town House.



Not only did the Theater Guild provide the community with an outstanding theatrical experience, the Guild earmarked \$1 of each ticket sold to the restoration of the historic North Brookfield Town House, which hosted Broadway shows during the George M Cohan era. Thank you!

**Your support as we move forward to make the Town House
Community Arts Center is sincerely appreciated.**

THE FRIENDS OF THE NORTH BROOKFIELD TOWN HOUSE



The Friends look forward to the day that the Theater Guild opens a performance on the Cohan Stage in the newly restored and professionally updated Great Hall of the North Brookfield Town House.

One More Important Thank You

Additional support for the Town House Restoration Project comes from Jaime Hart. When Jaime's father died recently, Jaime chose the Friends to receive memorial donations in her father's name. Word of each donation was given to the family and a thank you was sent to each donor. To illustrate their importance, recognition of these gifts will appear in the Town House lobby when the building is reopened after its restoration.

Oktoberfest Coming August 30th

Join us for the fun of it ~~~

- Sing and Dance to the music of
The Chipmunks German Band
- Enjoy Delicious Food
- Try Your Luck with Exciting Raffles
- Shop Creative Vendors
- Take part in Games for All Ages



All the while Supporting Restoration of the Town House

Contact Maureen Caramiello, m_caramiello@yahoo.com or 508-596-3582, if you want to be a volunteer, vendor or business partner.

Quaboag Current Flyer Sent to NB Residents

Our Friends in North Brookfield may have noticed a bright yellow insert when they opened their issues of the Quaboag Current several weeks ago. The flyer was an effort by the Membership committee to increase the number of our supporters by spreading the word about the steps that we have taken toward restoration of the Town House and our plans moving forward. We are happy to announce that the insert did its job, and we are adding new members and donors daily. You can help us spread the word of our success and our need for support by forwarding this newsletter to your friends.

News from our partner Bonnie Milner at Long View Entertainment

Recently, students at the North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School worked on a project called rFUTURE which was brought to the school through the non-profit CGMM, Inc. which is associated with Long View Entertainment. CGMM, Inc. works with schools all over the country asking young people two questions; what is the greatest



Zaclayia Ballard, River Smith, Cole Smith



Molly Procopio, recording her song

barrier to a sustainable existence in your community and what can be done to address this barrier?

Through the program young people learn that sustainability means using the resources of the planet, people and prosperity in a way that satisfies needs today, while preserving resources for the future. The students' observations and ideas are shaped into a professionally produced song and corresponding music video that is then shared with the world on YouTube. The North Brookfield participating students and their sponsoring teacher, Channing Ford, had powerful, positive ideas and solutions. Their voices and their messages are refreshing and hopeful. The students are inviting the community to see their song and video on YouTube by going to <https://youtu.be/egcndO2QX5M>

"We are hopeful that folks will listen, watch, and be inspired by our great high schoolers!" said teacher Channing Ford. "I truly believe that the voices of the next generation are important to include in our community's narrative".

Meet the Friends Board of Directors



Jim Buzzell, President – historian, managing partner for a physical therapy corporation



Marilynn Hahn Borst, Vice President, Newsletter Editor – retired educator, historian, researcher, writer, Downtown Development Committee Member



Maureen Wesolaski, Secretary – administrator public and private. education



Trish Miller, Treasurer – small business operator, community volunteer



Brandon Avery – historical museum director, Planning Board and Parks and Conservation Commission member, Recreation Committee Chair, community volunteer



Eva Brown – grant writer, teacher, musician, fine arts manager



Maureen Caramiello – treasurer/ clerk of local nonprofit, former assistant director at a private school community volunteer



Sue Lewandowski – community organizer, media/website manager, Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, Worcester Advisory Board



Jean Underwood – medical researcher

It's Membership Renewal Time

Look for your email reminder, use the form below, or scan the QR code.



Please Support Restoration

Revitalization, Education, and Creativity in our Community

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address for newsletter _____

Individual [\$25] ___ Family [\$50] ___ Lifetime [\$200] ___ Business/Organization [\$200] ___ Donation _____

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: _____

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
P.O. Box 12 - North Brookfield, MA 01535 – friends@nbtownhouse.com



The Last Word ~ Just Between Friends

Sharing Memories of Performing on the Cohan Stage

Excerpts from *George M. Cohan Was Here - the North Brookfield Town House – Past, Present, Future*

A close-knit community like North Brookfield finds many reasons to get together. Any town organization could have the use of the Town House one day each year at no cost at all. Because of the availability of such a large, attractive venue with excellent acoustics many activities took place in the Great Hall.

Talent Shows – According to Jean Pawlowski, there was “an annual talent show held in the Town Hall and it was amazing to see and hear many of our classmates and townspeople who had some very interesting and exceptional talents.” Joan Small sang with a friend in a show. The song was, “Aba Daba Honeymoon.” Joan says, “I don’t recall if we won anything, but it was great fun.” Barbara Barrows’ experience was very different. She was embarrassed when her music teacher, Ted Hopkins, had her sing “Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer” in the school talent show.

When Sheila Barry Buzzell was in the 1st grade, she won a \$3 third prize singing “Aint Got a Barrel of Money.” “I practiced at home with my mother who was a honky-tonk piano player. The piano player at the talent show started out in a key that was too high and my mother yelled from the back of the hall ‘Key of C.’” When the pianist found the correct key, Sheila was able to go on with her song. Peter Fullam also was a child performer. He says, “When I was in the 3rd grade at St. Joe’s, I won the first prize of \$10 in a talent show put on by the high school students for a song I sang. Much to my embarrassment, [back in school,] the nuns made me sing the song to all of the classes at St. Joe’s.”

Rhoda Crooks Berube remembers hearing Billy Connors perform in a town hall talent contest in which Ronnie (David) Lane also participated. He sang “Too Young.” It was the first time Rhoda had heard him sing. “What a voice he had. WOW.” David, she thinks, might have sung “Galway Bay”.

Russ Parker writes: “I had a nice experience, regarding the Town House: I auditioned, singing, for perhaps the last Town House show - one that sadly did not come to pass for one reason or another. The song I sang was one that I knew from singing lessons and musicals I have been in down here in the Attleboros. It was so good to be able to sing where so much of town life took place while I was growing up. Accomplishment is nice, it seems.”

Plays – Rhoda Crooks Berube remembers grammar school plays performed on the Cohan Stage. “Every other year the school would put on a play at the Town Hall and the town was invited to attend.” Rhoda had an unusual part. She writes that she was “the screamer for the person who played Becky Thatcher in *Tom Sawyer*.”

And this from Paulette Adams: “In 1996 I was a member of the Theatre Guild, and we had rehearsal upstairs in the Great Hall for the musical *My Fair Lady*. It seemed like we practiced for that play from January to mid-April. At the end of April, the show was held at the elementary school.”



Editor’s Note: This bi-monthly Newsletter is an attempt to keep Town House members, and supporters up to date on Friends’ activities. Please share it with your friends.

If you would like more information or have suggestions for articles, contact us at friends@nbtownhouse.com.

Marilynn Borst

Looking Ahead

August 3rd from 4-8 PM – National Night Out
at the North Brookfield School Complex Parking Lot
The Friends will be there with Town House news.

August 9 at 7 PM – Friends Monthly Meeting
At the Haston Library, North Brookfield, Rear Entrance

**September 30th all day – Oktoberfest
At Common Ground Ciderworks
East Brookfield Road, North Brookfield**

October – date to be announced – Friends Annual Meeting

November/December – Friends Bemis Winter Workshop

**Watch our Newsletter or Check our Facebook
Posts for More Information**



**And Take a Peek at Our Redesigned
Website
@ nbtownhouse.com.**

Our intern, Addie Reynolds, has been hard at work.