Memberships News

Enclosed in this newsletter is your membership renewal. Please remember to return it with your dues for 2017.

Also included on your form is a short survey, please take a moment and fill it out as well. Your opinion matters to us and will help us create programming and exhibits in the coming years.

We are happy to announce that we are the recipients of a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture for the History Fair. The 2017 Fair will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2017. Stay tuned in the next newsletter for more information or visit www.NEOLocalHistoryFair.com. Information will be added soon for our 2nd annual event!

The fund continues to steadily grow with your continued support. Remember, donations to the Endowment can be made any time during the year either by mailing it to us at our mailing address or by going online to the Cleveland Foundation website. These funds help us to continue our mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting this history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve by making sure we can continue to serve our community.

From the President

Dear Members,

What a busy Fall! Thank you to our staff and volunteers for keeping us busy and vibrant in the community with a number of new programs and some old favorites. I’m looking forward to what is looking like a great 2017!

Also, a heartfelt THANK YOU to Janet Caldwell for her years of service and dedication to the Historical Society. Her mission to bring the organization in to the 20th century truly turned us into a professional museum. Although we will miss her and her thoughtful exhibits, we wish her all the best in retirement.

Don’t forget to stop by during Christmas in Bedford Falls on Saturday, December 10th from 12-4pm. I’ll be on Lolley the Trolley guiding visitors through Downtown Bedford and the museum will be open with our famous cookies, coffee and hot cocoa!

Finally, a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season to all of you from the Board of Trustees, Staff and Volunteers of the Bedford Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Betsy Squire Lee, President

December 2016 – February 2017, Issue 327
(440) 232-0796
www.BedfordOhioHistory.org

Volunteers Needed!

We need your help! Whether you like gardening, data entry, exhibits and collections, security or special events and outreach, we’ve got something to suit your interest. Call 440-232-0796 to speak to one our staff about possible opportunities.

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 10th, Noon-4pm
Christmas in Bedford Falls
Downtown Historic Bedford, Town Hall Museum & the Train Depot

Friday, December 23rd—Tuesday, January 31st
Town Hall Museum & Campus Closed

Thursday, January 12th, 7pm*
Lyceum: Ohio before World War 2
Maple Heights Library, Auditorium
Speakers Janet Caldwell & Debbie Grubb talk about Bedford and Ohio in 1941, before the US entered World War 2.

Thursday, February 9th, 7pm*
Lyceum: Yours in a Hurry, A Novel by Ann Otto
Maple Heights Library, Auditorium
This debut historical novel takes readers to the time when California is still a new destination, America is extending its global reach, and men and women are taking to the skies. Life changes for the Hartle children when their prosperous parents die suddenly in 1901. Now it’s 1908 and the three oldest—Anna, Addison and Purl—have come of age and inherited a considerable inheritance. They’re in a hurry to leave their small Ohio village and have many experiences along the way.

Thursday, March 2nd, 7:30pm
Lyceum: Buried where?
The Old Church on the Square
Volunteer and BHS Trustee Reggie Tausigg speaks about her work cataloguing and researching the Bedford Cemetery. Her work has not solved mysteries but has provided a cross-referenced and comprehensive view of who’s buried where. She has also taken her unique approach to several other cemeteries in Northeast Ohio.

We Need You!

Have you ever thought about volunteering? We need your help! Whether you like gardening, data entry, exhibits and collections, security or special events and outreach, we’ve got something to suit your interest. Call 440-232-0796 to speak to one our staff about possible opportunities.

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Dear Members,

As we come to close of another year, I am thankful for all of you! I am constantly amazed by the dedication of our volunteers and staff. We added several new events and programs this year—some which worked splendidly and some that didn’t quite turn out the way we hoped, but still proved to be enjoyable for those who participated. My heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped to put these events and programs on. Groups like our Victorian Maids and Strawberry Festival Volunteer Committee deserve much of the credit when it comes to putting on a fantastic event. And, people like Dot Schwinden, Betsy Squire Lee, Sandy Spinks and Chris Sweet really stepped up this year to help add some dynamic elements to a number of programs.

From my family to yours, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and joyous new year!

Dana Best-Miszak, Director

Security Update

Hello Everyone,

A few friendly reminders to help keep you and our campus safe as the snow starts to fly:

- Be mindful of the walkways and stairs in case they haven’t been shoveled. We’re usually pretty good at keeping up, but it’s Northeast Ohio and as you know, the snow can come hard and fast!
- The front steps of the Town Hall will be closed once the weather gets bad, please use the side entrance off of the parking lot.
- If you see something, say something! We work hard to keep our campus safe and secure, but we can’t be everywhere! Don’t hesitate to call the police if you see something suspicious happening around our buildings.

A Summer of Volunteers

We are fortunate to have had Key Bank volunteers donate their time on a historical society project. This year 15 volunteers—photographed the Society’s hat collection and repacked them in conservation quality tissue and boxes. We extend our gratitude to Key Bank for offering this yearly program. And thanks to members Kathie Donato and Phyllis Barone for their support and dedication as a Volunteer.

We have had another volunteer this summer. Leila B. is a 14 year old whiz who has donated hours to continue the project above. Leila matched the photos with the hats in each storage box and placed them in sleeves on the outside of the box. Now we can look for a specific hat without handling them. She then completed the men’s top hat and derby collections and then bonnets. How many? About 200.

If you want to learn more about Jay Rorabeck and the war, the museum’s WWI Exhibit- Bedford Remembers the Great War remains in place through April of next year. Paul has selected several books about the war in the library. We have also published a soft-cover book about WWI and life at home in Bedford during that time; it contains the impact on local industry and has biographies of some of the local men who served in the AEF.

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign is going strong at just over $235,000. But, we have a long way to go of reaching our goal of $600,000 to renovate and restore the building as well as making it ADA accessible. If you have ideas for fundraisers or event that could benefit this project, please let us know and stay tuned in 2017 for more ways to help complete this project!

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Consider shopping through smile.amazon.com and designating the Bedford Historical Society as your charity of choice. We will receive a small percentage of your purchase!

‘Doing Our Hitch in Hell’

By PFC Rorabeck

I am sitting here & thinking, Of the folks I left behind. I’d never put on paper what, Is running through my mind We’ve dug a million ditches Cleared forty miles of ground A meaner place than Fort McClellan Is waiting to be found But we have one consolation Gather close while I tell When we die we’ll go to heaven Cause we’ve done our hitch in hell.

We’ve built a million mess shacks For the cooks to cook our beans We’ve stood on a million gunnel mounts And built the camp latrines & the number of parades we’ve stomped Is very hard to tell Our next maybe from heaven Cause we’ve done our hitch in hell.

We’ve rolled a million blanket rolls And peeled a million spuds We’ve stood a million mess calls And walked through many miles of mud But when the final taps are sounded and we lay aside life’s cares We will do our last parade Up Heaven’s golden stair To then we will hear St. Peter Cry out with a loud yell ‘You boys from the 151‘ rate a rest You’ve done your hitch in hell.

Learning more about the War

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