



Bedford Historical Society and Museum Newsletter

Summer 2018

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In This Issue

Message from the President

by Betsy Squire

Summer has finely arrived, and the museum staff have been hard at work getting ready for a busy summer season! So be sure to come see the new displays in progress and enjoy our summertime festivals.

We are pleased to announce that we have received a grant through the State Capital Bill for \$100,000. This money will help us continue renovations and repairs to Community Hall in the Old Church on the Square.

2017 was a year of change and challenges for the Bedford Historical Society. In October, after an extensive search, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Elmer Schulz as

our new Director. In addition, Debbie Grubb was appointed as Curator after serving for many years as our Archivist. The size and strength of the museum staff has grown with the addition of support volunteers like; Dot Schwende, Andy Morilak, and Paula St. John. In spite of this, our Treasurer, Reggie Taussig, has recently resigned from her position.

The Board owes a great debt of gratitude to Reggie for her extraordinary contributions and hard work during a challenging period of transition at the museum. We wish her well and continued success as she explores new avenues of interests. In the interim, we welcome Barb Tapocsi as our new Treasurer

See you at the museum!

Upcoming Events

- Flea Market
Bedford Commons
August 11
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Weekend of the
Pooka
Bedford Commons
September 7, 8, and 9
- Reverse Raffle
“Fly Me to the Moon”
La Casa Bella
September 29
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Rungs from the Director's Chair

by Elmer Schulz

If you are a dreamer, come in. If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar, a hop-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer... If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire for we have some flax-golden tales to spin. Come in! Come in!

This is not just an invitation. It is your invitation! It is a solicitation that is the handiwork of Shel Silverstein. A poem entitled, *Invitation* from his book, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

It is an enticement to you to become an interpreter-docent. An active and involved member of our Volunteer Corps. But be forewarned, it is not for the fainthearted. It is challenging work, but it is also rewarding work. But like all work that is worthwhile and meaningful, it requires effort.

A good interpreter needs perception, flexibility, and a vivid imagination. It requires hours of hard work, pouring over letters, diaries, newspaper articles, first-hand accounts, and scholarly works. But the thrill of creating understanding by providing an avenue of access to the past and making meaningful connections to the present is a magical experience for both interpreter and visitor alike as history comes alive.

Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote, "There are two kinds of greatness. One lies in the greatness of the

gigantic individual who... shapes the course of history. The other has its basis in the genius of the revealer – man or woman who uncovers something universal in the world that has been here and that [mankind has] known. This person's greatness is not so much in themselves as in what they unveil... to reveal the universal is the highest kind of greatness in any realm."

So, if you appreciate history, love reading, enjoy research and take pleasure in being with the public and having thought-provoking and stimulating conversations, then maybe being an interpreter-educator is for you.

So here is your invitation, an opportunity to inspire and provoke our audiences. Come on in. Be a part of something great, the BHS Volunteer Corp.

BHS Welcomes Paula St. John

Paula joins our team as an education specialist. Besides serving as our Thursday afternoon receptionist, Paula will lead our educational and research projects. Although she has been on sabbatical to care for elderly family members, Paula has an extensive background in teaching and museum education. She taught art in Cleveland Metropolitan School District for 20+ years. Additionally, she worked at Hale Farm and Village and the Western Reserve Historical Society where she researched, wrote, hired and trained staff in the costumed

period interpretation of domestic and industrial aspects of life in the early Western Reserve. Paula maintained and catalogued the collections at Hale Farm, managed monetary and gifts-in-kind, and even substituted, when necessary, at interpretive stations such as early industrial salt glaze pottery production, glass-blowing, cheese-making, yule log ceremony, and maple sugaring.

When Paula is not at the Bedford Historical Society, she volunteers at the Bedford Garden Club, Cleveland Metro-Parks, and MetroHealth Medical Center. She lives in Bedford with her husband, Jack St. John and their four fluffy cats. Paula and Jack enjoy camping, Plein Aire painting, opera, and traveling to mountains and oceans.

Upcoming Events

**A Celebration of the Arts:
Weekend of the Pooka
A Call to Artists and Artisans!**

The Bedford Historical Society cordially invites you to exhibit and sell your work at the 9th Annual A Celebration of The Arts: Weekend of the Pooka, **September 8, 9, and 10** on the **Commons** in historic downtown Bedford. In addition to the art show, this multi-arts festival features live music and entertainment, food trucks and vendors, an Artisan Village, a Children's Village, and much more. For more information contact **440-000-0000** or call **440-232-0796** or email us at www.BedfordOhioHistory.org.

Flea Market

Be an American Picker!

The Annual Flea Market will be held on **Saturday, August 11** from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, on the **Bedford Commons**. If you have items to donate to the Historical Society table, please bring them to the Town Hall Museum during open hours. All proceeds from this table benefit the Society. If you are interested in reserving a space, contact Chris Sweet **440-439-7470** or call **440-232-0796** or email us at www.BedfordOhioHistory.org.

Reverse Raffle Fundraiser

It Is Out of This World!

Our biggest fundraising event of the year is set for **Saturday, September 29** at **6:00 PM**. The Reverse Raffle will be held at **La Casa Bella, 26383 Broadway in Oakwood Village**.



The theme this year is ***Fly Me to the Moon***. Information regarding cost, meal choice, entertainment, basket silent auction, and raffle tickets will be made known shortly.

Please join us for an out of this world experience, filled with high spirits and an opportunity to help support the Historical Society. For more information contact **440-232-0796** or www.BedfordOhioHistory.org.

Mystery History Run

1st Annual Road Rally!

New for this year! Come join a fun filled, family friendly event! The petrol-powered event begins on the Commons, **Saturday, October 13** at **9:00 AM** and runs until **1:00 PM**. Participants will explore local township historic places, gathering clues and answering historical questions for a chance to earn prizes! Lunch at Bedford Falls Café is included in registration. For more information contact **Rich Novak, 440-439-6150** or rich52chief@yahoo.com **7470** or call **440-232-0796** or email us at www.BedfordOhioHistory.org.

Volunteers Welcome

Educators, Craft Persons, Artisans & Fundraisers

Please consider volunteering your time to the Bedford Historical Society. Presently, we have a great need for **Fund-raisers, Crafters, Artisans, and Educators**. So, if you get pleasure from working with the public, giving tours, demonstrating old-

fashioned skills or trades, like to write, direct, or perform historic theater, or have experience raising money, we invite you to join the BHS Volunteer Corps. Hours are flexible to suit your schedule. Guilds and clubs are welcome to show off and showcase their skills during open hours.

Louise Novak, BHS Volunteer Coordinator, is compiling a list of individuals interested in carrying out various tasks within the museum complex, including the Train Depot, Dunham House, and Town Hall Museum. Whether your interest is gardening, cleaning, data entry, community out-reach, education, program development, theatre, or general maintenance, we have something to suit your interest and skill level. Please contact **Louise** at **440-439-6150** or novak.louise@gmail.com or call **440-232-0796** to speak to our staff about possible opportunities.



Charitable Giving

AmazonSmile

Do you shop on **Amazon.com**? If so, consider shopping through **Amazon Smile** and designating the Bedford Historical Society as your charity of choice. We will receive a small percentage of your purchases!

Youth Group Service

Hours Available

Do you know of any high school students that need service hours

for the current school year? We have several projects that could use a few dedicated students! Eagle Projects can also be arranged. Call **440-232-0796** to speak to our staff about volunteer opportunities.

Membership

Join or Renew Today

Please consider becoming a member of the Bedford Historical Society. Annual memberships begin at \$10 for Individuals, \$20 for Families, \$25 for Contributing, and \$150 for Life members. Memberships are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Simply fill out and detach the form in this newsletter and mail it to **Bedford Historical Society, PO Box 46282, Bedford, OH 44146**

For those individuals that have renewed their annual membership, thank you for your continued support! We could not carry on our community engagement, collections, and programming without you.

Preserve Bedford History

The Old Church on the Square in downtown Bedford has provided the communities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Oakwood Village and Walton Hills with a venue for music, art, lectures, worship and entertainment for 122 years. It is our goal that this stately structure will continue to do so for future generations.

The Bedford Historical Society has started the second phase of a capital campaign with the help of another \$100,000 grant to restore and repair the foundation, improve plumbing and electricity throughout the building, enhance the building's use by making it ADA accessible, and renovate the community room to enhance and expand usage for activities such as banquets, expositions, education forums, lyceums, public meetings, theatre productions, musical performances, dance recitals, art exhibits, cinematic presentations, and much more.

As this work continues, we are looking for individual supporters willing to help us repair the stained-glass transom on the north side of the church. Currently the window has been shored up by the Cleveland Restoration Society. This is a temporary fix until we can begin work to repair the stained-glass interface. A large contribution today can help us kick off the project.

Plan a Legacy Gift



Plan a legacy gift or make a memorial gift to our Endowment Fund.

The fund continues to grow steadily with your continued support. Donations are tax deductible and 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 www.clevelandfoundation.org

Membership Form

Detach & Mail To:

Bedford Historical Society
PO Box 46282, Bedford, OH 44146

Individual \$10

Family \$20

Contributing \$25

Junior \$5

Life \$150 (per person)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your support. Donations to the Bedford Historical Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

These funds help us to continue our mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve.

Museum Store Snips

Come in and check out the BHS Museum Store. Jewelry, T-shirts, glassware have all been discounted to make room for new merchandise.

Museum News

Open House a Success

The Spring Open House on Sunday April 13 was a hit. All floors of the Town Hall Museum were open to visitors.

During the event Betsy Squire hosted a contingent of guests from the Hudson Heritage Association. The Bedford Garden Club was also on hand to reveal recently installed art pieces designed by local Bedford High School students that adorn the fence of the new memorial garden located at the east end of the Town Hall Museum.

Terry Blair, role-playing Hezekiah Dunham, regaled visitors at the Dunham House. Betsy Squire made plain simple quilting techniques, while Helen Pratt demonstrated chair caning.

Light refreshments and beverages were served by Louise Novak, Joyce Maruna, and Carol Pennington. Thank you to all our Volunteer Corp docents; Alma and Jim Rhine, Judy and Jim

Magyar, Eva Labuski, Iris Dawson, June Martin, and Rich and Chris Novak who conducted museum tours throughout the day.

BHS Annual Meeting & Dinner

Saints Preserve Us!

The Bedford Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner was held on Thursday May 3. Members and guests enjoyed good food, good company, and an interesting program.

Betsy Squire, BHS Board President, provided an update on the Society's activities and the annual report was distributed to everyone in attendance.

Later on, Joyce Maruna and Helen and Steve Batko were honored as BHS Volunteers of the Year for their dedicated service to the society. Afterward, Mike Follin from the Ohio Historical Society enthralled and entertained the assembly with his first-person program "*Saints Preserve Us*" - *The Irish in America*.



A special thank you to Dot Schwende, BHS Executive Secretary, for her tireless efforts in making the evening's arrangements, including invitations and program.

Volunteers of the Year

Joyce Maruna and Helen & Steve Batko

Joyce Maruna, Helen Batko, and her husband Steve Batko were honored as Volunteers of the Year in May at the Bedford Historical Society's Annual Meeting and Dinner. Joyce has helped the Historical Society in many roles over the years. She has served as archivist, docent, and trustee. Joyce has been in the museum for our many events and programs, both during regular hours and for special events. Prior to joining the museum staff as archivist, Joyce was employed by the Cuyahoga County Public Library. Joyce's knowledge and enthusiasm for Bedford history has made her a popular museum guide, always providing an interesting tour for our visitors. In recent years Joyce has served on the Board of Trustees, bringing her knowledge and experience to the oversight of our Society and Museum.

Helen and Steve have been regular volunteers in the museum for many years. Helen's organizational skills have been utilized in our photograph, schools, and genealogy collections. Helen also developed indexes for *Life in Bedford: 1813 - 1970* by Ned Hubbell and *Images of America: Bedford and Bedford*

Township by Janet Caldwell. She has also used her handcrafting skills to make items for the Museum Store and the beautiful crocheted afghan for the Strawberry Festival raffle. Helen has been greatly aided by Steve, who has helped in many ways. Steve assisted in the cataloging of topics in the photographic collection. With his Navy background, Steve works with the obituary index, researching military backgrounds to acknowledge those that served. Together Helen and Steve have been a great asset to our museum.

Timeline Hall Project

Thank you to Reggie Taussig and Gojira Fine Chemicals



If you have visited the Town Hall Museum recently, you will have noticed that the main hallway linking the first-floor museum complex to the lobby annex has been renovated to make room for a new exhibit space.



The new corridor will serve as an orientation area for museum visitors. The display will make use of a large wall mural that will incorporate a timeline of Bedford Township incorporating text, archival material, photographs, and artifacts. The effect will provide tourists with a sense of place. The hallway will act as a conduit to help pre-view exhibits and collections pieces throughout the museum and give patrons a greater understanding of the history that is Bedford and why it is important.

In this endeavor the Society is grateful to Reggie Taussig for their contribution of \$15,000 to make-over this valuable exhibition space. The Taussig funds paid for the entire construction phase of the project, including new electrical work, wall framing, drywall, woodwork, and painting. New LED lighting, signage, and door hardware are also being considered to help complete the work with the remaining funds available.

The Society wishes also to thank **Gojira Fine Chemicals** for their corporate donation to cover the cost of a 55" Sharp Smart Roku Television and wall mount. The monitor will allow the museum to play historic films, documentaries, archival footage, slide-show presentations, and much more in the vestibule.

2019 Exhibit Planned

Set Designers & Carpenters Sought

As the World War I Anniversary closes out this year, the staff is earnestly making plans for a new alternating exhibit on the third floor of the Town Hall Museum. Our goal will be to use various sensory elements to create ambiance and temper much like theater staging manipulates atmosphere and sets the tone through lighting, sound, and visual effects.

The staff is therefore seeking the assistance of carpenters and set designers with a creative bend to create six or seven vignettes based upon archival material. Please contact us at www.BedfordOhioHistory.org or call **440-232-0796**. to speak to one of our staff about possible opportunities.

Domestic Discoveries

A Taste from a Children's Cookbook

by Amy Schulz

No matter our age, we all have one thing in common. Each of us began our lives as a child and some of us remain children at heart. Children view their worlds with wide-eyed enthusiasm, full of hope, dreams and wishes. The children of the past were no different. A visit to the 2nd floor of Bedford's Town Hall Museum will bring museum guests up close to belongings of the children of yesteryear. These belongings

should provoke thought as to how childhood days were spent. It's more than just showing modern visitors that things were different - it's allowing them to peer beyond the "things" to the life that was being led. A display of clothing can bring thoughts of how it would feel to wear different fabrics and fashions. A china doll can make us wonder what the little girl was like who held her dolly in her arms and pretended to be her Mama. A baby's cup and bowl make us wonder not only what a baby ate but how it was prepared.

To help answer some of our questions, we can turn to the array of books that were published for children. Not just storybooks - although those can be fascinating. Children's literature was meant to guide and teach. One focus that is both fun and enlightening to study are the children's cookbooks that started to appear in the 1870s. In these books young readers were exposed to a variety of foods, tools and cooking methods.

Many of these books are available now in reprint or online as eBooks and they make fun and fascinating reading. Several were written in story form where the children would learn how to plan parties and events that included food while the "receipts" and directions are scattered through the narrative. *The Fun of Cooking* published in 1915 by Caroline French Benton is one such book. Her characters, Jack, Mildred and Brownie Blair, are siblings who

start their cooking adventures in chapter one with preparations for Christmas and they travel through the year learning through the many adventures that give them the opportunity to prepare foods. School luncheons, an abundant strawberry season, birth-day parties, fairs, camping, Halloween and Thanks-giving are just some of the fun times these happy children have together.

Also published in 1915 is a delightful book entitled *What My Children Love to Eat* by Elizabeth Colson. Mrs. Colson's chapters introduce the reader to menus she served in each season of the year. Things like Bird's Nests to welcome warm spring days, Slip and Go Down and Blueberry Slump in the summer months, Pumpkin Pudding and Scotch Broth as the leaves turn color and Alphabet Soup and Maple Sugar Sandwiches when the winter winds blow. She follows these chapters with descriptions of what her children need when they are recuperating from illness and their appetites needed tempting as well as "Lunches my Children Take to School." Menu #4 of this chapter includes a hardboiled egg, Graham bread and butter, a jar of stewed peaches, Pixie Rocks and nuts. The lunch would perhaps have been carried in a small basket or lunch tin. In the days before Tupperware, glass jars would have been saved to carry those items, like the peaches, that needed to be in a container. Sandwiches and other small items were wrapped in waxed paper. In total there are 10 different menus

for school lunches. No need to grow tired of the same old things!

One of the most interesting chapters is entitled "What My Children Love to Eat When They Go for a Picnic." It is divided into three sections: "At a Bonfire Picnic" (where the bacon is broiled on sharpened sticks and potatoes and corn on the cob are roasted in the ashes); At a Hay-ride Picnic (where a freezer of ice cream was tied under the wagon



When you bake a small thing, have the oven hot,
But for baking big things cool it off a lot.

as a surprise for the children; and "When Mother Plans our Picnic." Mother reminds us that "after all, the kind of picnic that you can have often is the best. A few of the people that you like very much, a box of lunch, and a raincoat is all you really need." She teaches that it is important to only take the amount of food you need for the number of people you have so as not to have to carry excess food to and from

your picnic site. Each person was to have two paper cups and the cups were to be fashioned the day before the picnic. Alas, no instructions on how to do this.

And what children's book would be complete without menus for birthday parties? Three party venues are outlined - one for any time of the year, one for summer and one for winter; a total of eight different menus. Both birthday cake and individual birthday cakes are listed as well as a variety of ways to serve ice cream, sherbets and custards. Spun sugar nests, marshmallow mice and lollypop ladies were sure to delight the little guests.

For those of you who would enjoy a taste of the past from your own kitchen, try your hand at the "Pixie Rocks" mentioned above in the school lunch menu. Note that no mixing directions or baking information is given. This is the norm for period cookery books. Mix the ingredients as you would a modern cookie recipe, drop on a greased baking sheet and bake at 325-350 degrees until lightly browned on the bottom. Note Mrs. Colson's comment on "Pixieland."

PIXIE ROCKS - 1/2 cup butter, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 cup sugar, 1/2 teaspoonful ground ginger, 2 cups flour, 1/2 milk. Drop from a teaspoon on buttered tins and bake. The rocks in that little place where the Pixies live are quite soft - but many things are different there.

Obituaries

Leo R. Sirna, age 84, of Walton Hills. Beloved husband of Beverly (nee Spoto) for 62 years; loving father of Craig (Anne Marie), Michael (Connie), Lorie and Kathleen (Dennis) Bergansky; dearest grandfather of Anthony, Kristen, Kaitlyn, Amanda (Craig) Brun, Joseph (Samantha), Nicholas, Michael, and Dennis and Samantha Bergansky; great grandfather of Abiana and Ilaria; brother of Mary Romito, Sam (deceased) and Steve (deceased); uncle and great uncle of many. Owner and operator of Sirna's Cafe in Bedford. The family suggests, if you would like to remember Leo in a special way, please send contributions to the Bedford Historical Society or the San Leone Society of Cleveland, 1160 Haverston Rd., Lyndhurst, OH 44124.

Announcing A New Hands-on Program Museum Pride! For Families and Businesses

The Bedford Historical Society is offering up a unique new hands-on occasion to work directly with the collection and gain a greater appreciation of Bedford history through an intimate experience with our artifacts and exhibit spaces.

Individuals, couples, families, and local businesses or corporations are encouraged to select an exhibit case, space, or room to sponsor. For example, the Elmer Flick display, or the Lincoln Room,

or maybe one of several exhibit vignettes located on the second floor.

Each backer will give their time to champion their space, regularly cleaning and maintaining their portion of the museum under the supervision and direction of our Curator. Supporters will be provided with cleaning materials and collection care instruction on how to properly care for items under their attention.

If interested, please call **440-232-0796** or email us at www.BedfordOhioHistory.org.

2019 Programming Schedule is in the Works Volunteers Sought!

The Education Department is currently planning special events, fundraisers, and a new series of programming offerings for the new year. If you are a creative individual who enjoys planning or executing novel experiences for various audiences, come check us out.

Without giving to much away, the staff is working on a new speaker series, a ghost walk in the graveyard, a geek celebration, an Elmer Flick Day and much more. If interested, please call **440-232-0796** or email us at www.BedfordOhioHistory.org.