



## NEWSLETTER FOR BEGINNING OF FALL 2011

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE TOWN OF WARWICK  
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### The President's report



The generous donation from Al and Judy Buckbee and their children to the Historical Society of the Town of Warwick allowed us to purchase the old Albert Wisner Library building from the Warwick School District. We are immensely grateful to them and honored to be chosen for this rare gift. The building has become the headquarters for the Society and will be known as the A. W. Buckbee Center for the Warwick Historical Society. It is a beautiful and very elegant space, now that it is finished. The building also houses the extensive archival and clothing collections, furniture and paintings from the 1810 House and the office for the Director.

In addition to this donation, we are indebted to others who gave their time and services. They are:

1. Duane Albro and WVT Communications for the wiring of the telephone and computers. The telephone system is is very 21<sup>st</sup> century!
2. Jonah Mandelbaum and Donna Applegate for the donation of a full working kitchen modeled after a design donated by Rosita Gilsenen. Now we will be able to rent the space and host parties with ease.
3. Estate Window Cleaning, owners Jim Wagner and Mike Valentino, for cleaning all the windows in the Buckbee Center.
4. The high school History Club students who helped move both the clothing and archive collections. They were a pleasure to work with – enthusiastic and positive!
5. Doug Meyers who did the initial inspection for the Society.
6. Both the carpet company and painters who did wonderful jobs at a reduced rate.
7. The renovations have been most ably led by our curator, Michael Bertolini, who is a well-known designer and interior decorator, and a crew consisting of Jane Glazman, Bill Bartsch, and Judy Harney. Michael's vision shows in the beautiful "Assembly Room."

There are so many others who have worked hard on this project to make this dream a reality. It could not been completed without the help of Sandy Glazman, John Sandfort and Raey Webster who facilitated the work and Rosemary Cooper, Library Director, who assisted us in the beginning, and so many others who volunteered. A huge thank you!

Again, this dream would not have happened if it were not for the generous donation of Al and Judy Buckbee who realized this beautiful building would be best served by the Warwick Historical Society. How incredibly fortunate we are to have them in our community!



The A.W. Buckbee Center is up and running!

Here is a summer picture – Warwick in Bloom planted the flowers in front and they are beautiful. We can't thank them enough. Yellow, orange, red abound in the ground and the planter in front of the door. The inside of the building has been transformed into a museum, a working office, and an entire floor for archives while the lower level has not only clothing and textiles, but a kitchen and two bathrooms. The bathrooms were donated by Mechelle Casciotta of Kitchen and Bath Works.

And the kitchen: As previously mentioned, it has been donated by Jonah Mandelbaum and Donna Applegate. It is a full service one with a number of shelves and cabinets plus a dishwasher, stove and refrigerator. We are really grateful for their gifts!

The main floor where the stacks were located when the building was a library is an open space just waiting for people – perhaps meetings, receptions, concerts. The piano will be moving to the Center from Baird's Tavern this fall. We are calling the space the Assembly Room and it is available for rent. Prices vary according to type and length of event – or whether the kitchen is required. Call the office for information and availability. 845 986 3236.

The entrance floor holds Jo's office and exhibit space with period pieces from the 1810 House. As most of you know the color scheme and space allocation were chosen by our curator Michael Bertolini with the help of Jane Glazman. Barron Morgan created railings and counters, computer desks and shelving.

Since the opening of the Center, we have had a meeting and luncheon for 35 – the meeting on one side of the room and tables for the luncheon on the other. Our annual George Washington Day picnic was moved to the Center from Lewis Park because of the heat. The air conditioner works beautifully!



Judy and Al Buckbee



Annual meeting and reception

We enjoyed a wonderful annual meeting and reception May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Buckbee Center – honoring Al and Judy and their family, daughter Amy Noteboom, and son Al (Skip) Buckbee along with Amy's husband Tim, and children Jasmine and Will. Over 60 people attended and the reception was catered by Ed Fava.



Pictured at left, Jean Beattie May talks at the **George Washington Day** picnic. She is standing next to a formal suit worn by Albert Wisner which had been in the attic of Al and Judy's house in Bellvale.

Jean's talk was entitled "Echoes of the Past on Frank Forester Square." As she talked, she could point out the window the locations she was discussing. The lecture was both witty and informative.

Jean is going to give a walking tour this fall. The date is the fifteenth of October from 10 to 11:30 am beginning at the A.W. Buckbee Center and ending at Bertolini & Co.

**The Archive Department**, which consists of over 4000 documents, maps, and photos, has successfully moved into the Buckbee Center and is up and running. Sue Gardner, who for many years was the head of archives, has 'retired.' It is in quotes as she will still help with various projects when needed and continues to work in the Wisner Library several days a week.

Cathryn Anders, a long time resident of Warwick, has volunteered to head the archive room. The picture on the right is of Victor Robinson, Cathryn Anders and Ivy Tulin in the new room. Victor is the input expert and has completed a large group of photos from early life on Main Street. Ann Jordan and Susan Winstanley are cataloguing the reference books. Cathryn and Sue are working on a photo album and newspaper articles on the State Training School in the 1950's. Richard Hull, Warwick Town Historian, is hanging an exhibit in the Town Hall of the photos from the collection. And on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> Dr. Hull will give a lecture at 7 pm in the Town Hall about those days at the Warwick State Training School for Boys. Does anyone remember the book "Manchild in the Promised Land"? It was written by Claude Brown, who spent many years there as a resident.



Archive hours are 9 – 12 every Tuesday. To make an appointment, call 845 986 3236

To get back to Sue Gardner: In 2000, Sue was named the first Archivist of the Warwick Historical Society. She began working on the Florence Tate collection soon after along with Pat McConnell. Florence, who had been the village historian for many many years, never threw out anything. The Society was grateful when Florence's sister, Barbara, gave us the entire collection. It was the beginning of the computer era for the Warwick Historical Society and we've never looked back. Raey Webster and others have catalogued the museum contents and archives, the papers, photos and other documents. The clothing and textiles are being entered now.



All of this would have been much more difficult without Sue.

She has a Master's in Library Science from Columbia and for the past 16 years has worked in the Albert Wisner Public Library as the local history librarian. Sue was the Village of Warwick's historian from 2007 – 2010, when Jean Beattie May took over.

She has an incredible memory for local history and we are grateful she gave so much time and effort into bringing 200 years or so into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Sue is at the Wisner Library on Wednesdays from 9 – 12; Thursdays 5 – 8.

You will see Sue around town wearing wonderful hats, which she said she started wearing out of respect for Florence who never went outdoors without sensible shoes and a hat!



Jane Glazman, Sheila Warner and Michael Bertolini

When Archives and Clothing moved to the Center, the Board of Trustees made a decision to rent the 1810 House to help defray the cost of running the Center. Michael Bertolini, Sheila Warner and Jane Glazman have leased the building and opened **Bertolini & Co.** They offer a full range of interior design services for home and garden. The shop itself has wonderful, interesting antiques, garden furniture and sculpture, plus a room of fabric samples for windows, furniture and rugs. Bill Bartsch, a retired professor of art from New Paltz, has paintings on display and for sale.

The shop is open 7 days a week.

Their beautiful web site will give more information.

[www.bertolinico.com](http://www.bertolinico.com) phone: 845 986 1810

Towards the end of May, Key Bank spent an afternoon doing 'Community Service.' They chose the Warwick Historical Society and helped clean the Old School Baptist Meeting House. This was organized by the manager of the bank, Andrea Gaetano. Before they began, Michael Bertolini gave them a short tour of several of the Society's buildings including the Shingle House.

Below are two pictures. We were very glad they helped sweep the cobwebs from the balcony and pews below before our first wedding of the season in the Meeting House!



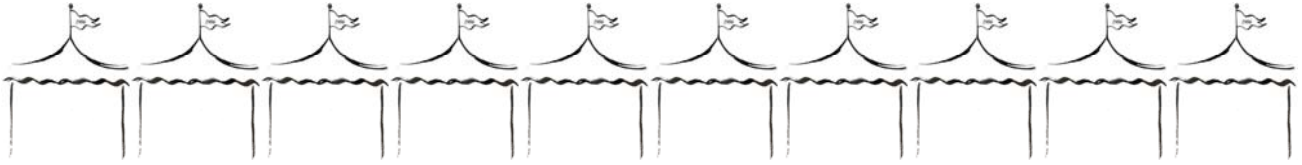
The first Sunday in June has always been the Wine, Cheese, and Jazz party. It is a wonderful event where a committee gets together during the dreary late winter to taste wine and pair each one with cheeses from around the world. The committee consists of Deb and Bill Iurato, Kurt and Karen Emmerich, Gene White, Jim and Patti O'Connor, and Ann and Harold Wilson. Michael Jackson plays light jazz on his guitar. It's under the crabapple trees in Lewis Park.

An overview of the party



Deb Iurato and Gene White





**Under the Tent**, our biggest fundraiser, became Under the Roof because of Irene. Do we have it, don't we? Do we change the location or take a chance on the tent in the Park? Finally we made the right decision.... The A. W. Buckbee Center has a large room just right for parties, a brand new kitchen, two bathrooms and no worry about mud, wind or rain.

Most volunteers and restaurants delivered or brought the food. Our silent auction was set up. E-mails were sent out and people called. There was a telephone message and a notice on the sign in the Park. Over 110 people came and had a great time. "Loose Caboose" played; David Sherfey had his home brew and Peck's provided the wine.

We were really grateful to all those who volunteered:

Restaurants: Charlotte's Tea Room, Coquito, Frank's Pizza, Fratello's, The Dautaj, Tokyo Plum House, and Yesterdays. Caterer Ed Fava and Noble Pies also donated food for the evening.

Other members and friends who donated food were:

Candy Ahrenholz, Pat McConnell, Cathie Heimbach, Sheila Warner, Jane Glazman, Shelly and David Sherfey, Deanne and Carl Singer, Candace Sandfort, Susan Metzger, Jane Gareiss, Louise Simpson, Suzy Stage and Karen Emmerich.

The evening netted a little over \$15,000-- down from previous years but successful in light of the weather and economy. The party ended before 9pm as the Town of Warwick declared a State of Emergency and everyone had to be off the streets after 9. Fortunately, our 10 buildings were not damaged by Hurricane Irene or remnants of Lee. The villages within the town of Warwick and the town itself were all heavily damaged – still two weeks later. Shop locally, if you can.

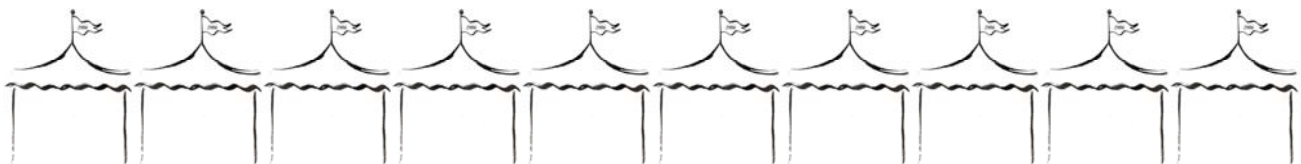
One reason we did as well as we did were those businesses and persons who **sponsored Under the Tent**.

Key Bank, Jean and Cush May, Lazear-Smith Vander Plaat, Raey Webster and Candy Ahrenholz, Carol Betley, The Breeman Family, Al and Nina Lewis, Carolyn and Bob Denny, Carol S. LeBrecht, Judy Harney, Bonni Oswald--State Farm Insurance, Victor Robinson and James Cline, Superior Floors, Country Chevrolet, Leo Kaytes Ford, Jane Gareiss, Michael Pillmeier, Shirley Gordon, Joan and Tom Frangos, Techni-Growers, Ingrid Large and Ed Hunter, Will Brown and Barbara Felton.

**The Silent Auction donors:**

The Landmark Inn, Charlotte's Tea Room, Taco Hombre, Pioneer, Noble Pies and Peck's Wine and Spirits, Michael Bertolini (and the Warwick Historical Society), the Sherfeys, Richard Dickerson, Cathy Bookey, Maureen Cuddeback, Carolyn Denny, Candy Ahrenholz, Doug Stage, Cathe Linton, Rosanne Andreas, Tom Andreas, Barron Morgan, Betty and Doug Hurd, Gail Bates, Jean and Cush May.

Perhaps we should think about having it in the A.W. Buckbee Center next year as well!



Thank you to all!

We lost four prominent and longtime members or friends of the Historical Society of the Town of Warwick:

*Frances Bradner Masefield (Perch)*, who took care of the Shingle House for many years. It was her ancestor who first lived in the house, which was built in 1764.

*Dr. Barbara Tate*, who was born in Warwick and was the sister of Florence Tate. Barbara visited Warwick often and gave all of Florence's Warwick collection to the Historical Society.

*Dorothy Ackerly Sanford (Deeps)*, a Board member of the Society for many years and an active volunteer for any activity the Society had – sometimes chairing the event.

*Charles Ashley*, a long time friend of the Society, who wanted to donate a tray table with an historic design for the raffle at this year's Under the Tent party, passed away before it was complete but Lakota Woodworkers finished it. And it was, indeed, raffled off.

If you want to know what's going on at the Warwick Historical Society, check out our web site at [www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org), or follow us on facebook or Warwick CommonPlace. You can send an e-mail to: [whs@warwick.net](mailto:whs@warwick.net) for further information.

If you would like to renew or join the Society, send a check or credit card info to:  
Warwick Historical Society, PO Box 353, Warwick, NY 10990

Student \$10; Senior \$45; Teacher \$45; Senior/Dual \$60; Individual \$60; Family \$120; Business \$150; Donor \$250; Patron \$500; Benefactor \$1000. Joining offers you entrance to the museums for free. And a tote bag is your gift for being a Donor, Patron or Benefactor.

We are always looking for volunteers.

Docents, Buildings and Grounds, Education, Event Planning, Grant Writing, Fundraising, Membership, Public Relations, Clothing and Textiles and Archives.

Our buildings are open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 – 2 pm and Sunday from 12 – 4 pm through the end of October.

Wednesday is senior day. Entrance is \$2.00. Lemonade and cookies are served at Baird's Tavern.

As mentioned above, members are free; otherwise, we charge \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 for the family.

The Gift Shop is open at the same time in Baird's Tavern – 105 Main Street.



The silhouettes of our 10 buildings were drawn by Judy Pederson

## The Shingle House Restoration Project



Believe it or not, this project is beginning soon! The architectural firm of Stephen Tilly is working on the plans and we look forward to their schedule of restoration by late fall. When work begins, most likely in the spring of 2012, we'll be trying to raise money for the matching grant which the State of New York's Office of Historic Preservation has awarded the Warwick Historical Society.

We did receive \$10,000 from the late Nell Rothschild's estate, which has gone into our special account. Also, the request for donations made to the Shingle House from the late Frances Masfield has totaled over \$3000.

Historical Society of the Town of Warwick  
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