

# Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

## B R O A D S I D E

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer, whether rainy or sunny, is our favorite time at the Job Lane House. We love to introduce visitors from all over the world to our Museum House! And we particularly look forward to welcoming you, our members, when you revisit us at 295 North Road.

There's always a story to tell!

Sharon McDonald, 781-275-5643 or [s\\_mcd\\_bos@yahoo.com](mailto:s_mcd_bos@yahoo.com)

President - Sharon McDonald

Vice President - Carol Hand

Membership Chair & Barn Director - Jeannette Pothier

Furniture Committee Chair - Bob Slechta

Custodial Committee Chair - Don Corey

Publicity and BHPC Liaison - Lee Yates

Secretary - (Open)

Treasurer - Patricia Leiby

Directors - Judy Barber, Chair

Angelo Colao, Don Corey,

Ralph Hammond, Art Smith,

Julia Whiteneck

### MEMBERS:

Welcome to new member Ralph Hammond of Bedford.

**Life Members:** Angelo and Gabrielle Colao and Jane and Bruce Parkhurst have upgraded their families to life membership.

### THE PASSING OF A FRIEND

Tony Matheson, a life member and friend, passed away in February after a long illness. We will miss him greatly! Tony worked with his sons Chris and Geoff in Eagle Scout projects at the Job Lane Farm Museum. Thanks to him, there are lights inside the beautiful display cabinet that Chris made out of our kitchen closet. Chris built beautiful benches and Geoffrey built the Sugar Grape Arbor. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, Connie, Christopher and Geoffrey Matheson.

### BEDFORD GARDEN CLUB

The Bedford Garden Club ladies held their Annual Meeting, luncheon and plant auction at the Job Lane Farm Museum on Tuesday, May 10, hosted by Jeannette Pothier.

It was a special day as the club celebrated Jo Champney's 90th birthday with old friends coming from far and wide to be with Jo for the event. It turned out to be a cold, windy morning and not at all a day to sit outside. The group moved into the barn, made hot tea (not iced tea as planned), and enjoyed box lunches. A large cake served everyone.

Jo continues to work at the Lillian Dutton Memorial Garden at the House. She started and built the garden and continues to be the most knowledgeable and pleasant person to work with. Come by and visit the Garden ladies and possibly help them out on a Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 10:30.

## QUILT RAFFLE

We have pulled the winning ticket for our quilt raffle! The lucky new owner of the quilt is Jane Parkhurst, a life member who lives in Fitchburg, MA. Thanks to Pat Pellegrini for donating the quilt, and to all who bought chances. The raffle brought in over \$300!

## SPECIAL: THIS OLD HOUSE

We are not talking about our old house this time, but rather the public television show called "This Old House." The crew is in Bedford this summer renovating the old Nathaniel Page House on Page Road in Bedford. (You'll remember that several generations of "Nathaniels" bore the old militia flag that we call the Bedford Flag.) Of course, to add color to their show, they are interested in knowing lots of colonial Bedford history, and wanted to see our museum house right away. Jeannette gave a detailed tour to the producer of the show and two of her co-workers, and they truly loved seeing our old house and our post and beam barn.

It had been thought that the Nathaniel Page House dated from 1688, but architectural historians have now estimated its construction as c<sup>c</sup>1720, making it roughly contemporary with the Job Lane House. Nathaniel and Deacon Job were brothers-in-law, and might even have helped each other build their homes.

We are all proud to be part of the historic town of Bedford and encourage you to visit with us often. (And be sure to watch the sixteen episodes of "This Old House" when they air nationally on PBS beginning in October, 2011.)

## FAMILY MUSIC DAY

This year, on the second Sunday of each month we offer not only house tours but also a family program in the barn. In April, there was kite-making, and on Mother's Day in June an (iced) tea party. Most recently, on the 12<sup>th</sup>

of June, the Job Lane Farm Museum offered a sing-along. *Picture Sharon strumming on her guitar and singing, and kids following along with comb harmonicas and rattles they made themselves, and a genuine kid - the juvenile goat kind - chomping grape leaves and wishing she could come in. Fun in spite of the dismal weather!*

Bring a child or two and join us on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, for Colonial Crafts in the barn.

## RECENT SPECIAL TOURS

In the last month, we have entertained the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; the First Parish in Lexington, UU Women's Group; and 200 third graders and their teachers and chaperones who walked from the Job Lane School for the annual pilgrimage! (We applaud the guides - Lee, Judy, Pat, Carol, Betty and Sharon - who gave them all excellent tours of the museum.)

## TO LET: ONE BIRDHOUSE

Norm Sutherland, our neighbor across the street from the museum, saw our meadow as the perfect place for a bluebird house. We met with Norm and all agreed that the middle of the meadow was best. Norm said he will cut the grass around the bird pole so that nothing will be disruptive to the town's mowers.

First, some tree swallows came to look at the new accommodations, but now we have a pair of bluebirds acting pretty serious about putting down a deposit. We may have to put a second birdhouse up. Our old birdhouse was just that - too old - and we retired it. We thank Norm for his foresight and interest.

## THE 1843 DUTTON DEED DONATED BY CAROL NOLINSMITH

Dutton descendant Carol NolinSmith recently brought the Friends an amazing document! Among her mother's papers (the late Olive Dutton Nolin), she found the 167-year-old handwritten deed transferring the

estate of Oliver Abbott (Deacon Job's great step grandson and last Lane to own the house), to Hiram Dutton, (Carol's great great grandfather and the first Dutton to own the house). The executor, Isaac Bacon, is a bit wordy to quote in full, but the paper, signed and sealed, establishes that the estate of Oliver R. Abbott, Gentleman, was given, granted, bargained, sold and conveyed to Hiram L Dutton, Yeoman, for \$2,400 on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1843. It goes on to describe the "homestead farm" as about 43 acres divided unevenly by the great road to Chelmsford, and including a dwelling house, wood house, outbuildings, barn, carriage-house and granary.

What a treasure this document is! Too fragile to be displayed in our Museum House, the original deed will be safely preserved at the Bedford Historical Society. You'll be able to read it, however, on our web page, [joblanehouse.org](http://joblanehouse.org)

### **A NEW TEA SERVICE**

The Furniture Committee has just purchased a wonderful new tea service for the parlor. The set includes a teapot, sugar bowl, slop bowl, and six handle-less tea cups and saucers. All are made of white bone china with a coral red and blue floral decoration that goes just perfectly

with the new red rug and the recently reupholstered blue sofa in the parlor. Betty and Bob Slechta, who made the purchase at an antique auction, identify it as a c1810 – 1820 tea set made in England by the Joseph Machin Company. Betty notes "We have been looking for a small tea set for a long time. It will add a 'homey touch' to the parlor. " Drop by and see it this summer!

### **FIND US ON THE WEB**

Do you have questions about Job Lane history, calendar and rentals? Visit our new web page (new address! [joblanehouse.org](http://joblanehouse.org)). Lee Yates, publicity chair, keeps news, photos and info up to date. About forty people a week visit us on Facebook as well. Keep in touch.

### **DUES REMINDER**

Dues for Single and Family members are due each year, and are \$8/single and \$12/family to be mailed to us at Job Lane Farm Museum, P O Box 720, Bedford, MA 01730. Life Membership is: \$80/single and \$120/family.

**Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.**  
**P O Box 720, 295 North Road (Rt. 4)**  
**Bedford, MA 01730**

**BROADSIDE: June-July 2011**

**New for 2011: Second Sundays are Family Days!** Along with house tours, we will offer a variety of family-oriented activities. All events are on Sundays from 2-4 PM unless otherwise noted.

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Sunday, June 26, 2-4 PM	<b>House Tours</b>
Sunday, July 10, 2-4 PM	<b>Family event: Colonial Crafts.</b> <i>Make something that people used in colonial days - a pomander ball, a fan, a mob cap, a game, or... well, you'll just have to come and see!</i> <b>House Tours</b>
Monday, July 11, 1-5:30	<b>FJLH at the Bedford Farmers' Market.</b> <i>Get fresh local produce and some good Bedford fun down on South Road</i>
Sunday, July 24, 2-4 PM	<b>House Tours</b>
Sunday, August 14, 2-4 PM	<b>Family event: Old-Fashioned Toys and Games.</b> <i>What did children play with in early America? No electricity, no batteries - but they knew how to have oodles of fun! We'll show you how</i> <b>House Tours</b>
Sunday, August 28, 2-4 PM	<b>House Tours</b>
Sunday, September 11, 2-4 PM	<b>Family event: Old-Time Foods.</b> <i>We'll try our hand at making some things to eat the old fashioned way - maybe johnnycakes, baked beans, ice cream? We're still working on the menu, but be sure to come hungry</i> <b>House Tours</b>
Saturday, September 17	<b>Bedford Day.</b> <i>Visit our booth at Bedford's annual birthday bash! Location: the area around Town Hall and Town Center on Mudge Way</i>
Saturday, September 24, 10AM-1 PM (rain date Saturday, October 1)	<b>Town Yard Sale at JFH.</b> <i>There's no yard sale like neighborhood yard sale - the more merchandise, the better the shopping. For a small charge you can put up a table and sell your "stuff." Or just come and shop</i>
Sunday, September 25, 2-4 PM	<b>House Tours</b>
Sunday, October 9, 2-4 PM	<b>Special event: Military Appreciation Day.</b> <i>To honor our heroes and their families, we're inviting everyone from Hanscom to come and enjoy a bit of Bedford history</i> <b>House Tours</b>
Sunday, October 23, 2-4 PM	<b>House Tours.</b> <i>The last of the season</i>

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