

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last General Membership meeting to 2019

November 21 at The United Methodist Church at 1200 Atlantic St in Milford.

See below for details.

2019 Milford Historical Society Programs

November 21 - General Membership Meeting—6:30 PM at The United Methodist Church at 1200 Atlantic St.

Holiday Entertainment after another wonderful Holiday Pot Luck dinner. The program that evening is Holliday Music presented by Musician and Educator, Jennifer Ginther.

The MHS Board members will supply the turkey.

Members should bring side dishes, salads and deserts according to the assignments below.

Potluck Assignments - A-F - side dishes, dressing and gravy G-Q - Salads R-Z - desserts.

The Museum will close for the season the last weekend of November.

In 2020 we will be holding General Membership meetings every two months on the third Thursday of the month, starting in January. Meetings will still be held at the United Methodist Church at 1200 Atlantic St. We hope to see more members attending these meetings.



From Our President, *John Robinson*

To our esteemed members;

As winter approaches, many maintenance items are being prepared. The museum is getting ready to have some much-needed exterior painting done. Many other items are being done such as lights being replaced along as other electrical work. My sincere thanks to the entire Museum Committee for all the things they do. A lot of work is performed by this group and helps keep the museum welcoming.

Approaching soon will be our November General Membership Meeting. As many of you know, we have our annual Turkey dinner for which the Turkey will be provided by several board members. Toward the end of November, the museum will close for the winter, but the work inside will go on. Exciting new exhibits are being developed for the opening in the Spring.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting. If there is something you would like to see, or change, please let us know. You can talk to any one of us, send a note to the museum or whatever method you like. I have met several folks at various places, maybe even just for a cup of coffee. It is always good to communicate in any way we can. We are only as good as our membership.

As always, guests are welcome at all general membership meetings. Remind them to bring a plate and a drink! We will attempt to pass our bylaw changes at every meeting. It has been awhile since the changes were sent but you can find reference to them in this newsletter or a copy on our website.

My very best to each of you and Happy Holidays!

John Robinson

President, Milford Historical Society

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Home Tour 2019 was a Success!

The Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires a large team of dedicated volunteers to be successful. As HT Chair (temporary), Sue Gumper, sends out a big thank you to all of our volunteers. I know you worked hard and hope you had fun.

First, our home tour would not be possible without the generous support of our special organization and homeowners. This year's sites belong Elisa and Steve Maher, Gail and Bob Peters, Connie and John Schulz, Brenda and Mike Ziembroski and Sue Gumper. Our heartfelt thanks go to each one

(Continued on page 4)

Our Mission Statement: *We are organized exclusively for educational purposes. We bring together people who are interested in history, especially the history of the village of Milford & Milford Township.*

The Collections Committee Report

By Jackie Swenson

The needle work skills from the past are of special interest to me. Yesterday I was standing by some textiles that were left at the museum and thought I would use this newsletter to talk about how to care for the beautiful items created and used by our grandmothers and great grandmothers.

This particular group of items includes beautiful pillowcases with embroidery and tatting, table cloths with colorful embroidery and a lovely hand appliqued and quilted baby blanket.

When we took the items out of the box there was a strong musty odor. Mildew is not visible, but the odor needed to be dealt with. I washed all these items in a Ph neutral soap (“Orvis” soap is most often recommended, and is readily available in quilt stores, sometimes called “quilt soap”).

Had there been mildew it would be much less likely that we would be able to safely keep these items. Some of the old textiles are so fragile that it is not safe to wash them. If the item has special value you would want to err on the safe side. You can do an online search for a textile conservator.

By washing these items I was trying to remove the odor and any trace of old soap and starch. Starch is organic and makes a hearty meal for insects and rodents. Washing also removed sharp creases caused by ironing. While our linen closets seem so much neater with ironed linens the sharp creases cause stress to the fibers.

In this case washing did not totally remove odor, so I'll let them sit in the open for a while to see if the odor will dissipate. It is recommended that textiles be regularly refolded to change the fold lines and reduce the stress at the folds. Ideally, textiles should be stored away from sunlight, in acid free containers with acid free tissue folded between the layers and used to pad the folds. We have a supply of acid free products that we use for storage.

There are many online sources devoted to caring for antique textiles. If you have questions about textile storage, or if you are interested in purchasing some of these archival storage products let me know. You can leave a message at the Museum, or email me at jacquelyn.swenson@gmail.com.



Museum Maintenance

Hopefully by the time you are reading this work will have started on repairing and painting a part of the Museum. Because of the age of the building we are dealing with the environmental problem of lead paint which makes what should be routine maintenance very expensive.

With much discussion and anguish the board has been able to allocate funds to have work done on part of the building. The work will involve replacing missing and rotted boards, scraping to



remove the loose, chipped paint, and opening windows that have been painted shut in the past. The bare spots will be primed and then a good quality paint will be applied.

After going out for bids and evaluating the replies, we have settled upon Rashid Construction to do the job. Rashid did the last painting job on the Museum and was very gracious about supplying some of the materials for repairs to old rotted wood areas. They are a local company with a new showroom about to open on Milford Road in Highland.

We are asking for help to cover the costs of this work, and hopefully have funds available to repair and paint the remainder of the building in the spring. You can donate to this project by sending a check to the Milford Historical Society (124 E. Commerce St., Milford, MI 48381) with Museum Maintenance in the Memo line.

Early in November we will have a Go Fund Me account set up with information on accessing this account on our Facebook and Web pages.

We will also be hosting an online Pampered Chef Party with the profit going to this maintenance project. Further information on this will also be available on our Facebook and Web pages.

The society and the museum are both supported by dues and donations, in addition to any money that we make off events like the Home Tour. Big projects like painting the museum deplete our fund rapidly. Please consider helping by making a donation to keep our Museum a part of our community to be proud of. Thank you.