



# THE STATE OF THE UNION MEETING HOUSE

Vol. X, No. 1 Readfield, Maine April, 2022

## Marius Beaudoin Péladeau, 1935-2022

Board member, Past President and Historian Marius Péladeau passed away on April 11, 2022. He had re-vitalized the Union Meeting House's maintenance and restoration efforts upon joining the Board in 2009. Foreseeing the work ahead, he recruited additional members to the Board of Directors. Without his skills, passion and perseverance, this famous building may not have survived.

Marius developed a master plan to stabilize and restore the Meeting House, a plan which has guided the preservation work for more than a decade. The work is not yet completed, but he leaves a very active Board to carry on and complete the job. His guiding spirit will stay with the brick church well into the future.

His love of the Meeting House attracted visitors from far and wide. Fundraising was one of Marius' strengths, providing money for the work done during his tenure. He documented the building's history in a just-published book which is mentioned elsewhere in this paper.

We will miss his inspiration and guidance as the work continues. The Board, dozens of volunteers, and hundreds of supporters will follow his lead. Rest in peace, Marius.



## "Meet Me At The Meeting House" this summer

As the Meeting House and Vestry are being renovated and restored, we are trying to make them go-to places for community members to gather and enjoy themselves. Part of that mission is a variety of entertainment and educational events. We have put together an excellent Summer Series of shows and other events, which will begin in May. Put the schedule below on your refrigerator, and plan to attend several of these events with your friends and neighbors. Watch our Facebook page for additional information. You'll have fun, and will be helping the Meeting House and Vestry improvements.

### 2022 Spring, Summer & Fall Community Events at the Union Meeting House

Date	Time	Event	Admission Price	Other Notes
Sat. May 14	7:00 PM	**Stan Davis	By Donation	Summer Series opener
Thurs., May 26	4-6 PM	Turkey Pie Supper, curbside	TBD	
Thru Summer		On-line Silent Auction	By bid	
Sat. June 25	1:00 PM	Ice Cream Social, Corn Hole games	Free	RUMH Members only
Tues. July 5	7:00 PM	**Gawler Family	\$15.00	
Sat. July 9	1:00 PM	Strawberry Shortcake, curbside	\$5.00 ea.	
Sun. July 10	1:00 PM	Celebration of Life Marius Péladeau	Memory or photo	Public invited
Tues. July 19	7:00 PM	**Brad Terry & Friends	\$15.00	
Sat. July 23	10 AM - 2	Craft Fair, light food served	Free admission	Table space rental \$15
Tues. July 26	7:00 PM	**Sandy River Ramblers	\$15.00	
Sun. Aug. 7	7:00 PM	**Dave Mallett	\$25.00	Also benefits Starling Hall
Tues. Aug. 16	7:00 PM	**Greg Boardman & Owen Kennedy	\$15.00	
Sun. Aug. 21	4:00 PM	Bernd Heinrich	\$20.00	Biologist, Naturalist, Author
Sat. Oct. 29	12 noon	Soup or Chile to go, curbside	TBD	
Sun. Oct. 30	5:00 PM	Pumpkin Fest	Come in costume	
Nov. 1-30		Pampered Chef Sale	On-line	
TBD		"Everyone Wins!" Raffle		
		** = Musical Event		

## Board of Directors

Jim Tukey President  
Nancy Durgin, V.P.  
John Perry, Treasurer  
Amy Black  
Larry Dunn  
Cynthia McInerney  
Florence Drake  
Ben Rodriguez

## Advisory Board

Evelyn Adell Potter  
Christopher Dumaine  
Jack Smart  
Bob Harris

The Readfield Union Meeting House is located at:  
22 Church Road  
Readfield, Maine

Address mail to:  
Readfield Union Meeting House Co.  
P.O. Box 451  
Readfield, ME 04355

See us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/readfield.union.meeting.house/](http://www.facebook.com/readfield.union.meeting.house/)

Check out our web site:

[www.unionmeetinghouse.org](http://www.unionmeetinghouse.org)

The Readfield Union Meeting House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is a 501(c)(3) entity under I.R.S. laws. Gifts to the Readfield Union Meeting House are tax deductible.

**New Board Member Announced**

We are very pleased to announce that Ben Rodriguez has joined our Board! Ben has lived and worked in Readfield for much of his life, and is very dedicated to the town. With a recent degree in History from the University of Maine in Farmington, plus a job as Events Coordinator at the Meeting House in 2020 and 2021, he is a valuable addition to our team.

Ben’s “day job” is maintenance work and Cemetery Sexton for Readfield. “I want to improve the town’s resources for its people, resources which include the Meeting House and Vestry. I’m embedded in Readfield, and hope to give back to this community some of what it has given to me,” Ben said.

We’re honored that you have chosen RUMH with whom to share your talents, Ben. Welcome aboard!



**Restoration Update**

This past year, the south side stenciled and stained glass windows were scraped, refilled and painted, and the attic window was rebuilt. The 1930 tower clock was completely restored and is on display in the sanctuary. Progress was made on the Vestry kitchen and bath, including roughed-in plumbing, internal framing, siding the annex, and drainage and landscape work. Thank you to several local contractors who donated their labor on much of the Vestry work!

Two years of Covid-19, runaway inflation, and a two or more year wait for specialized contractor work has caused delays and challenges in securing a contract for the restoration of the clock tower, belfry and spire. A cost proposal for this work was recently received, and we are consulting with the contractor. More contract information and negotiation is needed, as well as understanding our financial ability, before finalizing a work agreement. Unfortunately, the contractor proposal does not allow for the work to begin before 2024.

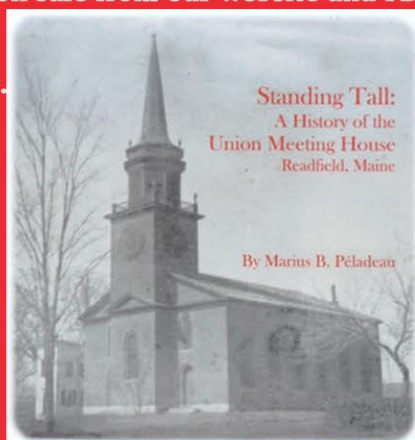
**STANDING TALL Goes On Sale**

The first-ever written history of the renowned Union Meeting House rolled off the presses in mid-April. The book illustrates the nearly 200-year history of this building with “the most beautiful church interior in Maine.” Over the past decade, our Historian, Marius B. Peladeau, did meticulous research for the book.

With a Preface by Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Maine State Historian, the book traces the people and their skills who built (and then re-built) this remarkable building. Through 2 centuries, community members have kept the “brick church” alive and standing tall. The Readfield Union Meeting House Company, originally chartered in 1828, is today seeking to return the Meeting House to its original condition.

The book will be on sale from our website and FB pages, at summer events and with the enclosed order form. Cost is \$17.50. Proceeds will be used for on-going restoration.

Many thanks to the 2 dozen pre-print sponsors who have helped to defray production costs.



**2021 Financial Results (unaudited)**

As planned, we increased our bank account in 2021 in anticipation of major restoration work.

**2021 RUMHCo. Consolidated Financial Statement**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash on hand 12/31/2020.	\$100,527	\$44,064	\$144,591
<b><u>Income 1/1-12/31/2021</u></b>			
Memberships	\$1,638	\$0	\$1,638
Donations	\$132,788	\$0	\$132,788
Events & promotions	\$8,272	\$0	\$8,272
Grants	\$43,227	\$0	\$43,227
Loans	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Interest	\$347	\$933	\$1,280
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$196,272</b>	<b>\$933</b>	<b>\$197,204</b>
<b><u>Expenses 1/1-12/31/2021</u></b>			
Administrative expense	\$5,219	\$0	\$5,219
Operation & Maintenance	\$571	\$0	\$571
Meeting House restoration	\$50,640	\$0	\$50,640
Vestry restoration	\$4,467	\$0	\$4,467
Fundraising expense	\$5,187	\$0	\$5,187
Loan servicing	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$67,084</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$67,084</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$129,187</b>	<b>\$933</b>	<b>\$130,120</b>
Cash on hand 12/31/2021	\$229,714	\$44,997	\$274,711

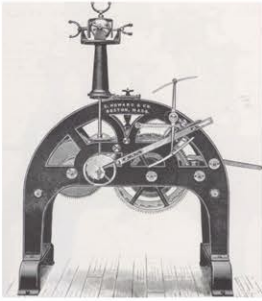
**A HUGE THANK YOU to the 2021 Supporters of the Readfield Union Meeting House Co.**

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**The 190 individuals, families and organizations listed above gave \$195,489 in 2021!**

## **Meeting House Building Committee News**

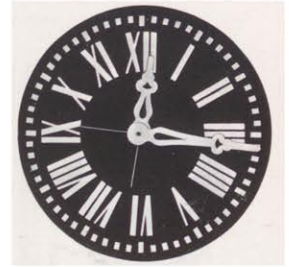
Meeting House Building Committee members meet as needed to manage the maintenance and restoration work needed at the Brick Church. Their biggest concern currently is getting a contract for restoration of the tower, belfry and spire. This major restoration project is in many ways the result of past maintenance needs (such as leaks in roofing) that was never done. Therefore, the Building Committee takes special efforts to make semi-annual building inspections, with the objective to find and repair defects in the building and grounds. This helps to keep small problems from getting larger and more costly. Current priorities are (1) repainting wooden trim on north stained/stenciled glass windows; (2) replacing ropes on double-hung window; (3) repointing brick work; (4) painting exterior doors & basement window, with new hinges for front door.



## THE TOWER CLOCK TIMES

*Latest news on restoration of the 1930  
E.Howard clockworks and dials*

*April 2022*



### NEW CLOCK FACES HAVE ARRIVED!

Three brand new dials were shipped to Readfield on April 1 and are now stored safely close to the Meeting House. Thanks to Larry Mace for providing a secure storage space. These dials are replicas of those that were originally installed on the clock tower in 1868 as part of the “modernization” of the Meeting House. The original dials lasted more than a century, and we are planning that the new ones will survive even longer!

Each clock face is 8 feet in diameter and weighs about 200 pounds. They are made as a composite of marine plywood (for strength and stability) and mahogany (for weather resistance). The 12 numerals around the clock face and the 60 minute marks are all cut from thin mahogany and highlighted with 24-carat gold leaf. The dials were fabricated by Tise Woodworking and Design in Portsmouth, NH. One of the original dials was brought to the Tise shop so that there would be an accurate pattern for the new replicas. Matching clock hands were previously shipped to the Meeting House with the restored E. Howard clock in September 2021. The square cutout on the dial will allow the deacon to install the hands while standing inside the building.

The new clock faces will remain in storage for two years, awaiting completion of critical repairs to the clock tower structure. We are anxious to get these repairs completed, but the experienced craftspeople to do the work are in very short supply. The Board is very thankful for the storage space provided by Mr. Mace; he has also been storing our 1859 Holbrook bronze bell there since 2012!

Kennebec Journal photographer Joe Phelan was present for the dial’s arrival, and he will have a series of photos of the unloading in a forthcoming edition of the KJ. To view more photos of the dials during fabrication and delivery, click on this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZGvdXQTOt4iBJdfpf1vkA868VsxHqM6W?usp=sharing>

**We appreciate the support of sponsors for restoration of the clock and dials. Your contributions, with grant funding from ME Historic Preservation Commission and with a small endowment left by Leon O. Tebbetts, have paid for the work to date.**

*Restoration of the clock was made with assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.*



*One of the three 200-pound dials is being rolled out of the moving van. Volunteer Greg Durgin is at far right.*



*The dial is placed in a sturdy storage rack designed by Board member Larry Dunn (see his hand at 3 o'clock), assisted by Board president Jim Tukey (at left) and photographer Joe Phelan*

## **NOW is the time to JOIN or RENEW your 2022 Readfield Union Meeting House Co. Membership**

Membership in support of the Readfield Union Meeting House (RUMH) is open to all who are interested in keeping the doors open, the building maintained, and events offered. As we enter 2022 in what we hope will be a “normal” year, the Membership Committee has set a goal of 15% increase in membership for this year. Will you help us reach this goal?

New this year for members: there will be

\*one dollar off per ticket for music events;

\*one quilt raffle ticket will be entered for a beautiful quilt made by Linda Tukey;

\*on June 25th there is an ice cream social & corn hole games just for members and family.

A membership form is included with this newsletter if you want to sign up by mail. For those who want to pay and join electronically, please go to our website [www.unionmeetinghouse.org](http://www.unionmeetinghouse.org) and go to the “Support Us” page for a drop-down menu of membership levels.

Please help spread the news about the Readfield Union Meeting House to friends and neighbors. Thank you for your membership support.

Memberships received by May 30th would be most appreciated!

### **Meet me at the Meeting House**

Stan Davis, songwriter and musician, returns to the Meeting House with songs from his latest CD, All They Know.

Stan has played at the Meeting House several times recently. See parts of his 2019 show on YouTube--click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2ZMYZciFhw>



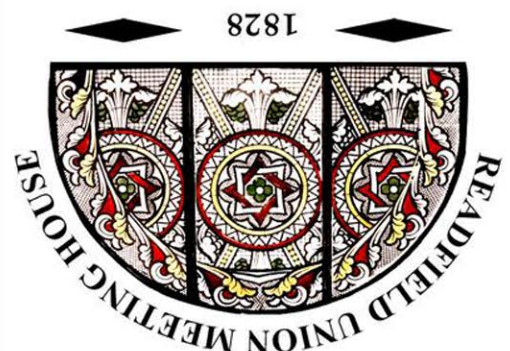
### **Stan Davis**

Saturday, May 14, 2022

7:00 pm

Union Meeting House  
22 Church Road  
Readfield, Maine 04355

No admission charge,  
donations  
gratefully accepted



READFIELD UNION MEETING HOUSE CO.  
22 CHURCH ROAD  
PO BOX 451  
READFIELD, MAINE 04355



**Readfield Union Meeting House Co.  
Membership Application**

Please enter my membership in the READFIELD UNION MEETING HOUSE COMPANY at the level indicated below. My payment to "RUMHCo" is enclosed. Mail to: P.O.Box 451, Readfield ME 04355, or you may enroll on-line at <https://unionmeetinghouse.org/join-us/members>

Circle the ANNUAL Membership level desired:

- for Individuals
- STUDENT . . . . . \$ 5.00
  - SINGLE . . . . . \$ 25.00
  - FAMILY . . . . . \$ 45.00
  - BENEFACTOR . . . . . \$100.00
  - SPONSOR . . . . . \$200.00
- for Businesses
- BUSINESS . . . . . \$ 35.00
  - CORPORATE . . . . . \$200.00

Donation (in addition to membership) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (to help us reach our restoration goals)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(your email address lets us send your newsletters and other information without printing & postal costs)

The Union Meeting House is a part of Readfield's history. It has historic, artistic, and cultural value. It serves the community as a social gathering place. Readfield Union Meeting House Co. was incorporated in 1828, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Complete and return this form for your annual membership

Complete and return this form to order copies of Standing Tall

**ORDER FORM**



On the National Register of Historic Places Since 1982

Book cost is \$17.50 (includes ME sales tax)  
Shipping cost (1-3 books) is \$5.00:

Books ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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