

# THE STATE OF THE UNION MEETING HOUSE

Vol. IV, No. 1

Readfield, Maine

June 2014

## The Board of Directors

President  
Marius B. Péladeau  
Secretary  
Milton R. Wright  
Treasurer  
Donn Harriman

Barbara Boenke  
John Perry  
Marianne Perry  
Karen Peterson  
Joan Wiebe

## The Advisory Board

Amy L. Black  
Flo Drake  
Mary Jernigan  
Evelyn Adell Potter  
Jack Smart

□□□□□

The Union Meeting House  
is at 22 Church Rd.  
Readfield, ME.  
Address mail to:  
158 Thorp Shores  
Readfield, ME 04355  
Phone: 207-685-4537

Visit the website at:  
<http://unionmeetinghouse.blogspot.com/>

□□□□□

*The UMH is a non-profit  
§501 (c)(3) entity under  
I.R.S. law. Gifts are tax  
deductible to the full extent  
allowed by law*

□□□□□

Dear Friends:

Instead of wrapping up a year of activities by sending you a newsletter at the end of the year, in 2014 we are mailing you this newsletter at the start of the summer season so that you can have a "heads-up" on what activities are planned at the Meeting House and to alert you of some news that might be of interest.

Usually at this point the Board would be reminding you that the new July 1-June 30 membership year is about to begin. A change has taken place and effective immediately the membership year will coincide with the calendar year: January 1 to December 30. Please see the details of this change in the article on page 2.

That does not mean that we cannot use your continued support since the Board has voted to move ahead on two important projects this year. The most pressing is the restoration of the floor substructure. With the scheduling of more events in the sanctuary it is imperative, for the safety of everyone, that the floor be repaired. As had been noted before, dampness under the floor has resulted in severely rotted supporting timbers. As far back as the 1980s some temporary repairs were undertaken but they too are now weakening. There is a serious and very visible dip in the center of the floor.

Can you help us move forward? Since there will be much less membership income during the second half of this year would you consider a special, supplemental gift to the UMH that can be earmarked to the floor project?

Board members have been active planning activities at the Meeting House this summer that hopefully will attract friends, new and old. Inside there is an article outlining in more details the three activities to which the public is invited this year. If you would like to volunteer to assist the Board and Advisory Board feel free to contact the UMH.

Read the following pages, look at the activities that are planned and consider joining others in supporting the Meeting House. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours  
The Union Meeting House Board



## Membership Change

As noted above, the UMH membership year will now run from January 1 to December 31. This will make it easier for you to remember and also make bookkeeping easier for the Board's Treasurer. This means that there is no notice to renew your dues in this newsletter, as in past years. Therefore, your 2013-14 membership has been extended for an additional six months.

The result is that the UMH will go through the last half of 2014 without any membership monies coming in at a time when expenses for the floor work will be high. Possibly our faithful members will see their way clear to give the UMH a boost at a time when it is badly needed. If you desire to make a supplemental gift in 2014 and earmark it for the floor rehabilitation it would be most appreciated.

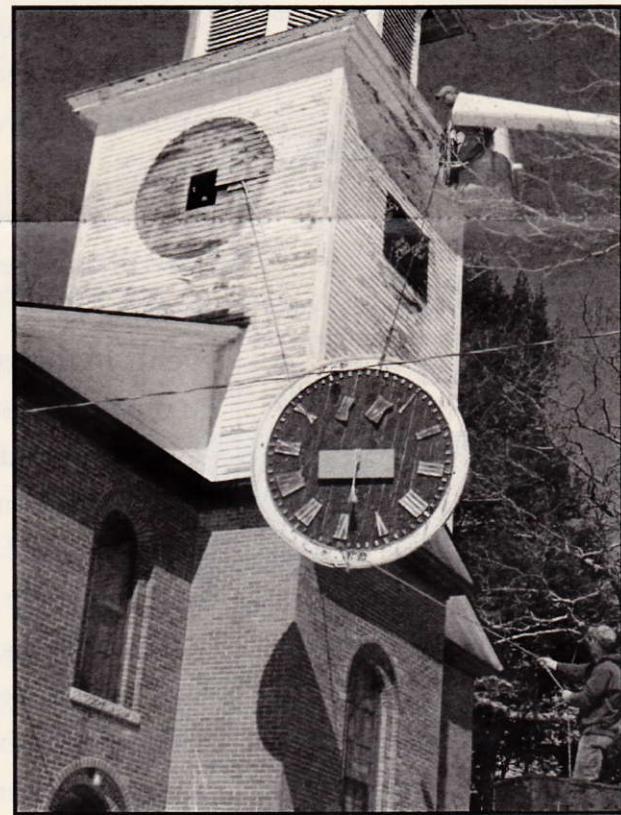
**On another matter, Board member John Perry, chairman of the Membership Committee, has mailed to a group of past members who have not paid in several years, a reminder that they are delinquent. If he does not hear from them shortly he will regretfully drop them from our membership rolls. The UMH cannot afford the cost of mailings (printing and postage) to those who have fallen behind. Check on the status of your membership by examining the mailing label on this newsletter.**

## THE CLOCK DIALS

It was obvious to everyone that the clock dials are seriously weathered and even showing signs of rot although they were completely redone less than 20 years ago. To prevent further deterioration, to examine them closely and to plan their restoration they had to be lowered to the ground. The Board discovered that it would cost \$250 an hour to hire a bucket truck. Fortunately, the restorer, Joe Caputo knew Dave Linton, a long-time supporter and friend of the UMH and together they planned a less expensive project.

The work had to be done while the ground was frozen to support the combined weight of the truck and dials. Plowing away the snow, the Caputo and Linton crews first removed the clock hands, placed block and tackle through the center hole, loosened the bolts that held the dial to the clock tower and then carefully lowered both of them to the ground. It was a delicate operation since the dials are very heavy and the south one had to be slipped away from the building so as not to fall on the roof.

Now that the dials are in Mr. Caputo's workshop they will be closely examined. In consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission a plan will be developed for restoration. However, this is all in the future since the first call for UMH monies is the resolution of the sanctuary floor problem. If anyone wants to make a donation to the clock dial project the UMH has a very modest fund in the bank and hopefully your additional donations will cause it to grow so as to cover the considerable costs of restoration.



With Joe Caputo inside with the block and tackle and Dave Linton in his bucket truck (at top right) the south dial is slowly lowered to the ground. It was a tricky operation since the dial had to be pulled away from the roof at left. The east dial was also removed at the same time and the two holes covered.



## Total Window Completion

Success at last. This summer of 2014 will mark a landmark with the restoration of the last window. Join the Board in feeling proud, very proud. No one had any idea when the first window was restored in the spring of 2010 how long it would take to redo all seventeen windows which had been neglected for years. Yet in exactly four years -- with your help - the goal has been met and everyone can take a deep breath.

Each window now has a tasteful gold-leaf plaque on the bottom rail stating in whose honor or memory the window was restored, along with the name of the donor(s) of the gifts. These names are truly a roll of honor and they are listed in a special memorial book to preserve the memory of their generosity.

## What's Happening This Summer?

The UMH has planned a number of interesting events for the public's enjoyment this summer. Starting off on July 26 will be a family-oriented presentation by Kent Axell of Manchester, Maine. Kent is nationally known as a premiere entertainer on stage and on television. A master illusionist and magician, his current show, entitled "Determined," is the culmination of nearly 20 years of study in the fields of magic performance and the psychology of attention.

Kent gives the impression that he is reading the minds of the audience, and influencing the decisions that they make individually, and as a whole. The show is fun, interactive, and the pieces come together in an ending that makes a deep impression. Kent has performed the popular magic show, "A Taste of Magic," which has been sold out for ten consecutive months in New York City. He has been featured on national television, most recently on the award winning National Geographic program, *Brian Games*. Marianne Perry is spearheading Mr. Axell's appearance at the UMH.

On August 30 the internationally recognized biologist and ecologist, Dr. Bernd Heinrich will present an evening program based on his numerous books about nature, ecology and evolution. Over the years he has made major contributions to the study of insect and bird behavior. He has written eighteen books and will be glad to autograph copies, including his most recent one, the night of the talk. Most of his writing relates to his research examining the physiological and behavioral adaptations of animals to their physical environment. However, he has also written books that include more of his personal reflections on nature. Call Mrs. Perry at 685-3531 for more details..

On Saturday August 9 the UMH will present the third of its exhibitions on early crafts. Following in the footsteps of the successful shows the past two years of quilts and hooked rugs, 2014 will feature a large display of old and new braided rugs. Board member Joan Wiebe is in charge and those interested in seeing their rugs included should contact her directly at 685-4725. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be demonstrations on how to make braided rugs as well as a raffle of an outstanding rug to benefit the UMH. Be sure to attend.

For more information on these events watch the local media and *the Readfield Messenger*.



As in past years the UMH thanks students from Kents Hill School who come in the spring to remove leaves and debris from the grounds. This was the 2014 crew. Their effort is appreciated.



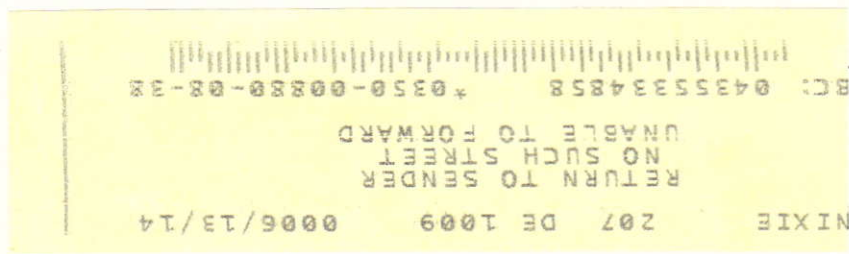
### Miscellaneous Notes

The Board welcomes Mrs. Amy Black of Fayette from the Bank of Maine to replace Brianne McNally, also from the Bank, who had served on the Advisory Board for a number of years. The Bank of Maine has been extremely generous in support of UMH activities, such as concerts and the printing of the membership letter and newsletter. Welcome Amy.

Flo Drake, an original Board member in 2009, has asked if she could "slide over" to the Advisory Board because of her duties as president of the historical society and her spending time in the south during the winter. The Board values her involvement.

The Board voted to grant an easement to the Readfield Trails Committee to build a new trail that will come north from the Library and pass across the rear of the UMH property before turning easterly to join Church Road. The UMH is pleased to be able to cooperate with this new footpath.

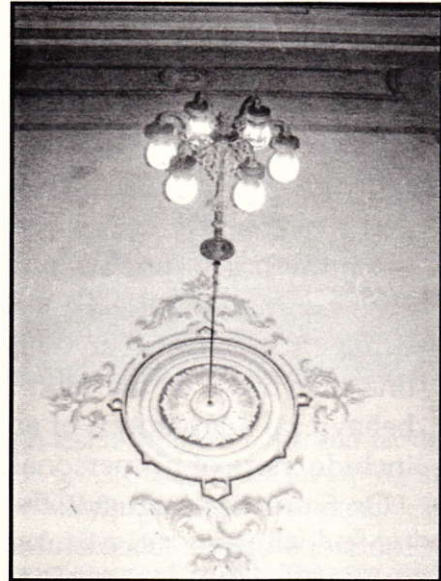
The back story of the last window restoration is interesting. On July 25, 1953, Patricia Ann McLeod married William (Bill) Williams at the UMH. She still spends summers at their property on Torsey Pond. This year her extended family decided to mark the 61st anniversary of her marriage by restoring the final UMH window to honor her and her late husband. The dedication and placing of the plaque will take place around the anniversary date. Some older Readfield residents may remember Mr. and Mrs. Williams. He was on the Readfield Elementary and Maranacook High School boards and a town selectman. Mrs. Williams worked at Maine Banker's Association in Augusta and was a member of the Crystal Club of Kents Hill. What a wonderful gift for their family to make.



James C Chamberlain  
MGen Karen Dyson  
3749 Tennis Ct  
Falls Church VA



For those who have not been inside the sanctuary or looked up at the ceiling here is the original kerosene chandelier and the trompe l'oeil center decoration.



The Union Meeting House Company  
158 Thorp Shores Road  
Readfield, Maine 04355  
Address Correction Requested