

HSSM 2022 December Newsletter

1 message

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Newsletter December 2022

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENT

"ALL ARE WELCOME HERE; AFRICAN AMERICAN CONNECTIONS TO SHERWOOD, NY" was our second annual festival "under the tent." It was successful, enjoyable and well-attended. A big thank-you to our funders, Tour Cayuga County, the Museum Association of NY, and the Nelson B. Delavan Foundation.

Program highlights included:

- The National Women's Suffrage Quilt, a traveling exhibit
- The unveiling of the Emily Howland quilt, with a presentation by the artist, Ellen Blalock
- Maggie Moore-Holley reenacted scenes from the life of Harriet Tubman, celebrating the bicentennial of her birth in 1822.
- Dr. Kim Sajet, scholar and director of the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery, presented "Picturing Freedom: Emily Howland and Portrait Photography." Kim wrote her dissertation on the Emily Howland *carte de visite* album and is working on a more popular book on the early Howland photographs.



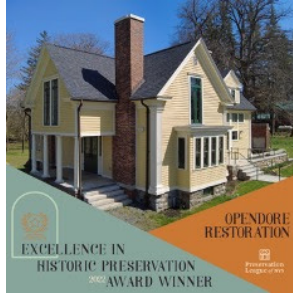
Emily Howland Induction National Women's Hall of Fame

The third time is the charm! She finally made it, together with Michelle Obama, Judy Chicago, Octavia Butler, Kathleen Johnson. It was a glorious weekend in Seneca Falls as Marilyn Post received the award for Emily, with several Museum representatives in the audience, and numerous others watching remotely.

The Emily Howland Quilt

We were fortunate to commission noted narrative artist Ellen Blalock to create a quilt honoring Emily's induction into the Women's Hall of Fame. It was a great pleasure to know her and work with her. Not only did she agree to create the quilt, but she also found a grant from CNY Arts to cover the cost. Ellen recently won first prize in the Quilts = Art = Quilts exhibit at the Schweinfurth Museum in Auburn, where she has two quilts notable for their storytelling of the Black experience in America. The Emily Howland quilt is now on permanent display in the foyer at Opendore.

Preservation League of NYS Award



In November, Opendore received an Excellence in Historic Preservation Award from PLNYS. This is a great honor since there were only ten awardees in the entire state.

"Without the vision and dedication of the Howland Stone Store Museum, Opendore would surely have been lost," said Preservation League President Jay DiLorenzo. "Opendore is a tangible reminder of the area's importance in the history of abolitionism and women's rights. We are thrilled to recognize this incredible restoration with an Excellence Award this year."

A recording of the ceremony and further details can be found at PreserveNYS.org.

Opendore

Springhouse

Our current project is restoration of the small brick Springhouse located behind Opendore. The 12 foot square structure with a unique pyramidal roof was constructed circa 1900 and presumably used as a water supply. With beautiful arched window openings and a removable center roof hatch, the structure was carefully built and beautifully detailed. By 2016 the roof had badly deteriorated, and the brick walls were failing due to water damage. The roof framing was removed to prevent further collapse of the masonry walls.





Capital Campaign

We are grateful for your generous response to our special capital appeal. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals, plus the Emerson Foundation and Cayuga Community Fund, we have funding in place for the parking lot, the Springhouse, and the walkways. We expect parking lot and walkway construction to begin next spring after we receive approval from the Department of Transportation. Tree and shrub planting should take place in late summer and fall of next year.

The next capital project will be the reconstruction of the *Porte Cochere* and East Porch in 2024 or beyond. This will be a major project and will require major funding. We plan to apply for a NYS Council on the Arts capital grant in January 2024.

Stone Store

Building Work

Work on refurbishing the 1837 cobblestone Stone Store exterior over the summer is now complete, with new attic insulation, aluminum storm windows, and painted exterior trim. One last project is the badly rotted exterior building sign above the west entry door. It will be replaced with a new aluminum sign mounted on a pressure treated frame. The sign itself was prepared by Mark Dunham, who painted and installed the original sign in 1999. Our volunteer crew built the frame and installed the molding. We are waiting for a warm day to hang it. We are grateful to the Metcalf Foundation for their support of the Stone Store insulation and rehabilitation project.



Collections

Since the ash has been cleared out of the attic there has been a tremendous effort to clean and organize the collections on both floors of the Stone Store. New interpretive signage was mounted explaining the curiosities, shades were hung to shield the artifacts from light, and everything was given a good cleaning. It actually feels good up there. On the first floor, new abolition displays are up, and the track lighting will soon be upgraded to provide more light. Funding for all this work is from Metcalf and Delavan Foundations.



Monthly Programs

In what became a delightful Emily Howland class reunion, author Kathy Lawton Purc, class of '63, presented her book, *Stone House Stories, The Memoir of a Free-Range Kid* on October 22.

Luisa Casella of Westlake Conservators presented the fascinating history and conservation of early 19th century photography November 20. Video is available at HowlandStoneStore.org under the events tab.

Reading & Discussion Group will return in January.

We have again applied to Humanities NY for a "Votes for Women" Reading and Discussion group. Last year we studied the Civil War; this time, the women's suffrage movement. We plan to intersperse material on Emily and Isabel Howland and Sherwood's important contributions. The group will be facilitated by Linda Post Van Buskirk, and books will be available for loan. Sherwood materials will be provided from letters and journals, and from the Museum archives. HSSM docents and staff are encouraged to attend in preparation for the 2023 season.

Historian

Our archives contain a treasure trove of fascinating materials from the Howland family. Recently a photo of "The Block" building next to Stone Store was found.



Caption on back:
"B. T. Brown at rear of truck
Russell Brown by drivers door in front of the store at Sherwood, NY
Probably taken in the late 1930's
Herb Heffernans Electric Shop is at the right
In the 1920's Charlie Comstock had his harness shop in that section and Maria Sweeney operated the grocery store"

Other News

VISITORS

Howland Stone Store Museum has welcomed over 1,100 visitors this year at open hours, events and programs. We are delighted to have had visitors from the area as well as other states visit our two buildings and enjoy our exhibits. We thank dedicated docents for supporting our open hours this year.

This fall, invitations were sent out to clubs and organizations who we thought might enjoy a visit. We had a good response, and several groups were scheduled for the off season when the Museum would normally be closed. We continue to give individual tours during the hour preceding programs.

COMMUNITY

The Museum welcomes use of Opendore for community activities. Currently the Hazard Library is holding their Board Meetings and Book Club sessions at Opendore. If your organization would like to discuss usage, please contact us.

MUSEUM HOURS

The Stone Store Museum and Opendore will not have regular open hours in the winter. Appointments for visits can be arranged by calling 315-303-3145 at least three days in advance.

We welcome group tours by organizations.

DOCENTS and VOLUNTEERS FOR 2023

The museum needs additional docents for the summer of 2023. We schedule two docents for each three hour Saturday and Sunday day we are open. New docents are paired with experienced persons to "learn the ropes". We plan a docent orientation session in the spring. Please indicate your willingness to help operate the museum on the attached membership form, or call us at 315-303-3145 and leave your name and phone number.

Additionally, we seek volunteers to assist with facilities work, collections improvements, and other activities. It's a fun way to work with interesting people from the community and help the museum improve. Give us a call, stop by or talk with any board member.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2022 we received 170 memberships, a new high! For 2023 we hope to exceed 200 with returning and new members. Museum membership is now payable for 2023: \$15.00 individual and \$25.00 family. The membership and donation form is attached.

Benefits of membership include

- Support to museum
- Newsletter mailing hard copy if requested
- Reserved seating at programs if requested
- 10% discount on HSSM merchandise

HSSM on social media

- follow HSSM on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HowlandStoneStoreMuseum>
- follow HSSM on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/howlandstonestoremuseum/>

Museum membership is now payable for 2022: \$15.00 individual and \$25.00 family. We currently have 160 members for 2022 and hope to reach 200 by year end. Benefits of membership include:

- Support to museum
- Newsletter mailing hard copy if requested
- Reserved seating at programs if requested
- 10% discount merchandise

Membership form here
[Link to online membership page](#)

HSSM now is on social media:

- follow HSSM on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HowlandStoneStoreMuseum>
- follow HSSM on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/howlandstonestoremuseum/>

Comments are welcome on our revised newsletter format. Have expertise in newsletters and want to help? Contact treasurer@howlandstonestore.org.

The Museum Board of Trustees appreciate your continued support!
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