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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The mission of the Marblehead Museum & Historical Society is to preserve, protect and promote Marblehead's unique heritage. Our goal continues to be the integration of the Museum into the everyday life of the Marblehead Community.

I am pleased to report that the year 2008 was a significant growth year for the Museum in many ways.

Education, one of our more important goals, was expanded dramatically. In the spring of 2008 over 600 children visited the Lee Mansion and the Frost Gallery. In addition to the school children, teachers also attended a course, Using *Marblehead History in the Classroom* designed to familiarize them with the history and resources of the Marblehead Museum's collections. Annually a 5 session course in Marblehead architecture is offered by Judy Anderson.

This past year we had three well attended exhibits. At the beginning of the year we had an exhibit called *The Art of Coupling*. Curated by Collections Curator Karen MacInnis, the exhibit featured objects from the MMHS collections, including portraits of husbands and wives and decorative arts that included couples. The spring and summer exhibit was a collection of *Marblehead Watercolors* by Ingrid Selmer-Larsen, a talented local artist who died two years ago at the age of 96. She was a founding member of the Marblehead Arts Association.

In the fall we had an exhibit of over 100 decoys by Marblehead carvers past and present. As part of this show we hosted the *36th annual Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp Competition*, previously been held at the Peabody Essex Museum. The winning entry appropriately was a painting of a skunk head scoter carved by Capt. Samuel Fabens of Marblehead.

Walking tours are offered during several seasons. Bette Hunt's walking tours of the historic district are always popular. Judy Anderson gave walking tours of 17th century architecture and Colonial Marblehead. Pam Peterson did walking tours for students and special groups from Lookout Court to Old Burial Hill.

Our lecture series included talks by Karen McInnis, "Marblehead Samplers", Nick Smith "Paranormal Investigations" and Lauren Fogle talking about her new book "Colonial Marblehead."

In October, the fund raising event *Tablescapes*, featuring designer decorated tables and a fashion show by Irresistibles was held at the Lee Mansion, and attracted a new and different group into the Mansion. Working with the Marblehead Family Fund, we featured the *First Annual Pumpkin Illumination* in the Lee Mansion Garden.

Attendance at the Lee Mansion continued to grow as we looked for different ways to encourage visitors to make both a first and return visits. The Lee Mansion hosted the second annual Gingerbread Festival during Christmas Walk. A Gingerbread House preview cocktail party was graciously hosted by Pat Lausier. Over 3500 people came through the Mansion, viewing over 60 Gingerbread houses. This fun event, done in conjunction again with the Marblehead Family Fund, has attracted many new families with young children.

continued

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 Judy Anderson, *Lee Mansion Curator*
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The number of open hours at the G.A.R. expanded substantially under the supervision of Board Member Dana Denault with assistance from Dave Rogers Veteran Administrator and other community volunteers. For the 2008 season, the G.A.R. was open on Memorial Day, then alternating Saturdays through the summer and fall. Over 600 visitors were pleased with the opportunity to see and understand Marblehead's Civil War history.

Our combined attendance at sites and events this year exceeded 10,000 people.

We are working more closely with the town appointed Marblehead Historic Commission and will loan our recently donated model of the U.S.S. Mugford to the Ray Cole Marine Room at Abbot Hall. As we move forward we believe our organizations will be better served with continued collaboration.

In 2008 we recognized two more of our dedicated volunteers with the John Stucke Exceptional Volunteer Award. Betty Hunt the town historian received her's at the 2008 Annual Meeting and Jean Fallon, registrar, her's at the Volunteer Christmas Party.

The year 2009 is a significant year for the Marblehead Museum and Historical Society. It is the 100th Anniversary of the purchase of the Jeremiah Lee Mansion by the society thus saving it from destruction.

In anticipation of the centennial we will be completing a 10 year program of restoration of the window sashes and sills. Under the capable supervision of Judy Anderson, Lee Mansion Curator, restoration occurred in areas that haven't been addressed in over 100 years. The work that has been completed should sustain itself for the next 100.

Our challenge as we move forward is obviously financial. Preserving the Mansion is an expensive proposition. Although we will be finishing our 10 year project this year there is still much to do. The parlor we hoped to redecorate after 70 years has been put on hold but still needs to be done. The Pediment window on the front needs to be rebuilt.

Because we generate very little income from our events and exhibits, our primary source of capital for day to day operations comes from our membership dues and our annual fund. We need to raise \$150,000 each year from our Annual Fund alone. We fell far short of this goal this year. Although our number of donors was up by 52%, total donations dropped by 14.5%. This is a sign of the times. In order to fulfill our mission we need to grow our membership. To that end we have mailed membership information to the entire town. We hope to convince everyone in Marblehead to become a member and help us.


 Richard Carlson, President



FAR LEFT: Jean Fallon, MMHS Registrar and Board Member, received the John Stucke Volunteer Award in December 2008.

LEFT: Bette Hunt, recipient of the John Stucke Volunteer Award with MMHS Board President Dick Carlson at the 2007 Annual Meeting.



FAR LEFT: Marblehead Decoy Exhibit September 2008-January 2009



TOP: Silhouettes of Elisabeth and Ebenezer Lecraw, from the MMHS collection, were on exhibit for "The Art of Coupling" February-June 2008



LEFT: Jeremiah Lee Mansion and Gardens, by Ingrid Selmer Larsen, this painting was part of Marblehead Watercolors on exhibit from May-September 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT

From a financial perspective 2008 was a year that clearly demonstrated the energy and commitment that surrounds the MMHS but also the cold hard realities of a nonprofit museum and historical society. We managed more successful events and exhibits and had more individual visitors passing thru our doors then ever but found the current financial environment a major challenge. Like most museums we break even when summing the revenues and costs of events and exhibits. This is reality even though we spend a great deal of time and effort to make sure our events are special and well delivered. The Board prides itself on the stewardship it provides the Society and they are equally as proud of the talented, hard working professional that work tirelessly on making good things happen. At the end of the day we are very dependent on attracting and retaining members and on our Annual Fund. These two fund raising initiatives are the major determinants of how much money we take from our endowment each year to support operations. We have clearly stated goals of becoming financially self sufficient but have had difficulty expanding our fund raising reach. We dramatically increased our focus and our efforts but with disappointing results. We are, however, realists and appreciate the times that we live in. However, we believe that our determined efforts to become an integral part of our community's historical heritage will be recognized and appreciated over time.

The Endowment Committee is comprised of seasoned professionals who are acutely aware of both their investment and their fiduciary responsibilities. We have maintained a cautious investment philosophy and will thus weather the current environment.

We have been very fortunate to have received several very generous bequests with the result that our Mansion Preservation Fund has grown in spite of current market conditions. We sincerely believe that the Jeremiah Lee Mansion represents a very special historic land mark and we will thus continue to encourage the further endowment of the "Preservation Fund". Being our Centennial year 2009 just might be a good time for you to consider such a gift.


 Fred Settlemeyer, Treasurer



Gingerbread Festival, 2008, at the Lee Mansion, this popular event has now become a Marblehead tradition. The Gingerbread Village made by the pre-school class at the Old North Church Nursery School was the winner in the Children under 10 category.

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES 2008

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Annual Appeal	\$ 79,282	Salaries	\$ 107,754
Membership Dues	25,903	Insurance	22,246
Cash on hand	24,376	Office Expense	11,297
Other Sources	4,394	Postage	3,759
Endowment Income Remitted	15,380	Printing and Support	12,160
Endowment Principal	47,000		
		Maintenance	20,949
Admissions (JLM)	5,906	JLM	3,762
Walking Tours	340	Garden	5,429
		170 Washington	4,772
Events		House Keeping (cleaning)	9,249
Garden Party	1,950	Utilities	12,128
Gingerbread	2,500		
Wine Tasting	5,000	Events	
Tablescapes	9,500	Garden Party	2,127
Other	2,000	Gingerbread	
		Wine Tasting	
Facility Rental	5,868	Tablescapes	8,000
Gift Shop Sales	2,966	Other	3,691
Miscellaneous	1997	Exhibits	5,383
		Computer Support	3,895
		Paid Help	4,475
		Audit/Reports	3,125
		Publicity/Advertising	448
		Conference Dues	1,800
		Gift Shop Merchandise	6,696
		Other	5,300
Total	\$234,362	Total	\$234,496

INVESTMENTS - CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (2008)

Restricted	Market Value 12/31/08	Transfer Out	Gain (Loss)	Reinvestment	Interest & Dividends	Market Value 12/31/07
Scudder	\$ 71,986	\$0	(\$41,555)	\$7,512	\$0	\$106,029
Unrestricted	Market Value 12/31/08	Transfer Out	Gain (Loss)	Reinvestment	Interest & Dividends	Market Value 12/31/07
National Grand Bank	\$ 24,376	(\$26,277)	\$0	\$0	\$43	\$ 50,610
Eastern Bank	\$130,722	(\$53,126)	\$252	\$13,960	\$ 5,432	\$164,205
Vanguard						
General Funds	\$649,101	(\$8,745)	(\$268,126)	\$0	\$18,377	\$907,593
Mansion Preservation*	\$224,939	(\$2,915)	(\$89,376)	\$124,244	\$ 6,126	\$186,960
Grand Total	\$1,101,124	(\$91,061)	(\$398,805)	\$145,716	\$29,978	\$1,415,397

*The W.E. and T.E. Bowdin Fund has been combined with the Lee Mansion Preservation Fund in order to expand overall support for the Lee Mansion. The Martha and Russell Knight Fund is dedicated to the preservation of the Lee Mansion.