

News from the Stow Historical Society

*A newsletter for all friends of Stow history.
Please feel free to pass it along to others who might be interested!*

July 2012

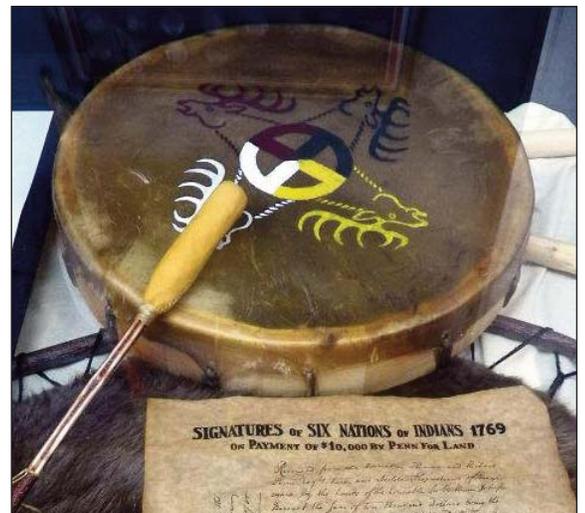
Native American Culture to be Celebrated at West School Museum on Sunday, July 8th



The West School Museum Summer Series will present an afternoon of Native American Culture from **3 to 5:30 pm on Sunday, July 8th**. The event will feature traditional Native drumming for the first half-hour, an opportunity for kids to make traditional leather bracelets and an exhibition of baskets, pottery and other objects related to Native culture.

The program is being presented by the **United Native American Cultural Center**, based in Ayer. The nonprofit Council was founded in 1993 to offer programs for schools and other groups to teach about the Native Culture. It provides support to other Native American organizations in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine and Canada as well as to various charitable organizations within the community, both Native and Non-Native.

Scenes from
recent UNACC
events
courtesy of
UNACC.



The program is being organized by Stow residents **Barbara and Roland Jerome** (who is the Cultural Center's current president).

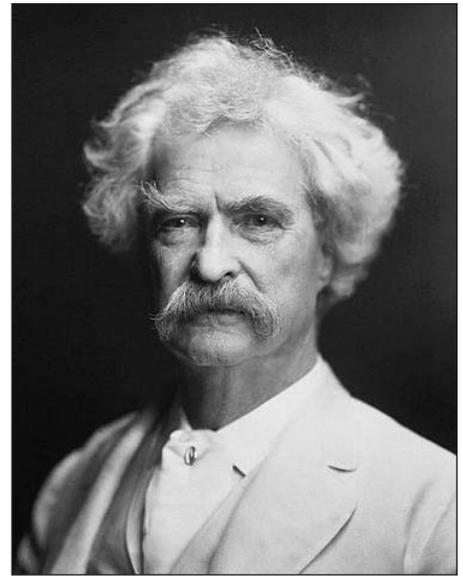
Free and open to the public, all West School programs are jointly sponsored by the Stow Historical Society and the Stow Historical Commission.

Remaining events planned for the West School Summer Series include:

■ **An Open House, Sunday, August 5, 4-5:30 pm.** No program is planned, but come learn about the West School Museum and see the new video recreating a school day in the 1840s.

■ **A visit by Mark Twain, Sunday, September 23, 3 pm.** Actually, it's a visit by actor and Mark Twain interpreter Bern Budd, who'll present a one-man show called "The Hannibal Years." Mark Twain, of course, was the pen name adopted by Samuel Clemens. Budd's performance is based on the great American author's life growing up on the banks of the Mississippi River and stories about the real life characters behind *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*. As Twain put it, "This is my tale – and some of it is true."

Fittingly for the West School setting, he'll also talk about the author's education in the 1830s and '40s. The production is geared for ages 10 to 100, but Mr. Budd has found that younger children do seem to enjoy the show even if they do not understand it all.



Samuel Clemens in 1907.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Potter Ted Carvalho will repeat last year's visit to the "Skills in Our Town" program, again offering kids in attendance a hands-on chance to make their own ceramics.

■ **"Stow Knows: Skills in Our Town," Sunday, October 14, 3-5:30 pm.** This family-oriented program features artists and artisans from Stow demonstrating their work. Last year's skills ranged from painting, quilting and spinning to woodworking and stone sculpting.

This year, we hope to feature such activities as bee-keeping, cider-making and weaving.



Stow West School Museum programs are supported in part by a grant from the Stow Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

West School served as a schoolhouse in Stow from its construction in 1825 until 1903. After six decades as a private dwelling, it was restored by the West School Society, a private citizens' group, and given to the town as a museum. It's one of only two one-room schoolhouses preserved in Massachusetts.