



# 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!*

## Celebrate SHS's 50th Anniversary!

Please join the Stow Historical Society in celebrating its 50th anniversary with a dinner in Stow's historic Town Hall on Saturday, November 12. The program marking the half-century since the society's founding in 1961 will begin at 6 pm.

You are invited to a Country Harvest Supper featuring traditional American dishes, a cider tasting and "old-fashioned" desserts. All friends of Stow history are welcome. **Reservations must be received by Tuesday, November 8.** Please reserve to Dorothy Sonnichsen at 978-897-3344.

### Program highlights will include:

#### ■ 50 Years of Stow History

SHS President Barbara Sipler will review the history of the Historical Society, from the memoirs and "white paper" research by early members to the educational emphasis of more recent times.

#### ■ Installation of a New President

Barbara has decided to step down as president after heading the organization since 1991. *Stow Things* author Ralph Fuller has agreed to take on the role.

#### ■ The Stow Time Capsule

To mark its 50th anniversary, the SHS will seal a Stow Time Capsule filled with books, newspapers, maps and other "artifacts" of life in our town in 2011, to be opened on the Society's 100th anniversary in 2061. Barbara, Ralph, Karen Gray, Linda Stokes, Nancy Arsenault and Dorothy Sonnichsen are currently working to assemble time capsule contents. Email any suggestions to [info@stowhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@stowhistoricalsociety.com).

The 12"x12"x9" stainless steel box will be housed for the next 50 years among the historical artifacts currently on view in the SHS display cases in Randall Library.

#### ■ World Premiere (sort of): The West School Video

The program will include a viewing of the new, seven-minute-long West School video, produced by Stow's Jack Slattery to enhance awareness of the structure that served Stow as a one-room schoolhouse from 1825 to 1903.

Jack conceived of the project as the community service component of his effort to achieve an Eagle Scout award, one of the highest awards in scouting. He not only



researched and wrote the script for the production, he borrowed costumes from Old Sturbridge Village, coordinated donations from various business and local groups and recruited Stow kids to act in it. Lizzie Cross, a classmate from Nashoba Regional High School, played the teacher.

Jack was assisted by Stow's Dan Hnatio, who donated the services of his production company, Active Communications. Dan shot, edited and worked with Jack to create the final video. Karen Gray served as Jack's consultant and advisor for the project. It will be displayed during programs at West School, at various town meetings and on Stow TV.

## SHS is Now on Facebook

The Stow Historical Society now has its own page on Facebook, carrying timely announcements, photos of events and other pertinent information. Please look us up and bookmark us (and please "Like" us!).

If you don't belong to Facebook, you should still be able to view the site by going to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stow-Historical-Society/174759532603470>.



## West School Programs – A Busy Summer

The Stow Historical Society and the Stow Historical Commission again joined together this summer to present the annual series of free history and arts-related programs for the public at the West School Museum.

The programs, organized by the West School Committee of Ralph Fuller, Karen Gray and Linda Stokes, included:

- An exhibit of historical photos from town archives.
- An oral history program interviewing Louise Peacock about "safety net" programs in Stow, Pat Walrath about her experiences as Stow's first woman selectman and Dick Martin about orchards in Stow.
- A visit by "Little House on the Prairie" novelist Laura Ingalls Wilder, as portrayed by actress Betty Lehrman (*shown giving a stern eye during a spelling bee*).
- A "Skills in Our Town" program, featuring the artistry of painter Kristen Donovan, potter Ted Carvalho, stone sculptor Andy Mintz, quilter Dorothy Sonnichsen, spinner Jana Colonna-Romano and woodworker Al Wheeler. All demonstrated their work and often gave kids a chance to try their hands. Music was provided by David Gray and Ed Hetzler. Thanks to everyone who participated in – or attended – all of these programs!

## The School Tile Program Seeks Your Support

RECESS, the volunteer group *Raising Extra Capital for the Elementary School in Stow*, is seeking support for its Elementary School Tile Project, "A Tile to Remember." Create your own 6"x6" handpainted tile at tile-painting sessions on October 28th or November 9th & 10th. The tiles will adorn the walls of the new school. Funds raised will go toward the building's renovations and expansion. For more information, go to [www.stowrecess.org](http://www.stowrecess.org) or call Claudia Dragun at 978-760-2259.

