

FALMOUTH

MUSEUMS ON THE GREEN

HOME OF THE FALMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2014 Annual Report



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From the President

History is alive at Museums on the Green thanks to a talented staff, dedicated board, and corps of devoted volunteers, all committed to the mission of the Falmouth Historical Society to preserve, present, celebrate and share Falmouth history. Our Cultural Center, opened in December of 2012, has provided a flexible on-site meeting facility enabling us to host diverse offerings which have attracted new audiences and members.

No longer “hidden in plain sight,” Museums on the Green is an active center for Falmouth history. During 2014 more than 70 public programs, exhibits and events were presented. Our school programs have flourished over the years since the first program was established in 1968 under President Dudley Hallett. Specially trained docents brought history into Falmouth schools in over 30 classroom visits last year. New collaborations with students at Falmouth High School created interesting exhibits at the Museums connecting history and art.

An important part of our mission is our research library and archives, which handled more than 500 research requests last year. Located in the Conant House along with offices and exhibit space, the research area is a busy place year-round. We are finalizing plans to share with you for the restoration of the oldest parts of the Conant House, dating to c. 1730, and for the creation of functional areas for research, visitor services, and exhibits that will meet the demands of the 21st century.

We are truly grateful for your support, which validates the importance of our mission to preserve and share Falmouth’s history! Without you, we cannot do what we do. Thank you very much!

Caroline Lloyd
Board President



Director's Report

2014 will be remembered as a year in which the Historical Society and Museums on the Green did a lot of events and did them very well. January began with "Hullabaloo and the Nimrod, Too!" in which over 200 people joined us at the Coonamessett Inn to commemorate the bicentennial of Falmouth being attacked during the War of 1812. Our 15th annual Heritage Award dinner was held in April, as we honored the contributions made to Falmouth by Sally Cross and Elizabeth Heald Arthur. In June, we boarded the Island Queen to take a trip "Around the Sound", and our staff and volunteers were ably aided by the catering team of Atria Woodbriar. Record throngs came on July 4th to honor our nation and enjoy their local history, as well as partake in homemade ice cream. In August, honoring 100 years of the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, the Society partied at our "Summer Wind Centennial" to music of Frank Sinatra, performed in memorable fashion by Solon Z and the Sapphires. At the end of August, crowds of people participated in our 44th annual Antique Sale, with many going home with great deals on a variety of merchandise. In October visitors, led by a Night Watchman, took a scary trek through our grounds and into a spookily decorated Wicks House. The year ended with the Museums adorned for Christmas as those who walked through our doors learned how certain Christmas traditions came into being.

The new Cultural Center was the site of a wide range of programs, including lectures by authors such as Nathaniel Philbrick, Alex Kershaw, Ben Bradlee Jr., Stephen Puleo, Katherine Howe and Michael Connelly, as well as many others. There was a program of Irish Step Dancing, and re-enactments of Isabella Stewart Gardner and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Revere. The Museums hosted musicians as part of Falmouth's Jazz Stroll and was the venue for a New England military history symposium. In August, the Museums on the Green partnered with the Massachusetts Historical Society to host workshops on local history, entitled "Old Towns/New Country: How Massachusetts Evolved after the American Revolution." We even had time to take a bus trip to the



Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. As you can tell, there were plenty of activities going on all throughout the year!

This does not take into account all of our visitors to the Museums, taking in our other attractions. Docents were busy all season giving tours to thousands of people coming to our campus. Highlights of our exhibits included “Victorian Life in Falmouth”, which featured artifacts from our own collection. A collaborative effort with Falmouth High School students showed ceramic works called “If These Houses Could Talk”, as students created birdhouses based upon past stories of existing historic houses across Falmouth. Another exhibit with Salley Mavor drew her many fans and new friends to our campus. We had large participation in our historical walking as well as our autumn Trolley Tours. Our members and supporters have a right to be proud of how 2014 turned out.

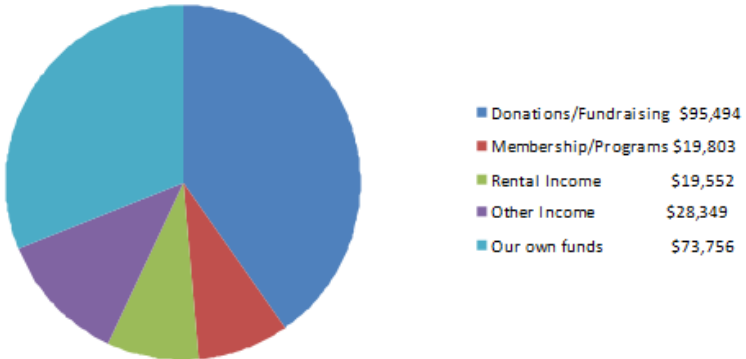
Most importantly to me, I must take time to thank all of the people who volunteer their time to the work of the Historical Society and Museums on the Green. We have so many people who contribute to the operations of this Society that merely listing them in this Annual Report does not begin to do them justice. And I am so very proud of my staff here at the Society, for they are the ones who really do the work. Amanda Wastrom, Cathy McDonnell, Meg Costello, Carolyn Tarr, Jennifer Krumfolz, Sarah Murphy and Jeanne Alves come in each and every week and do the heavy lifting for the organization, and I am honored to have them be a part of this. I also want to thank Kelly Benway for her contributions during 2014 before departing for another position. It is the work of all of these people that make what we do possible.

Mark Schmidt
Executive Director

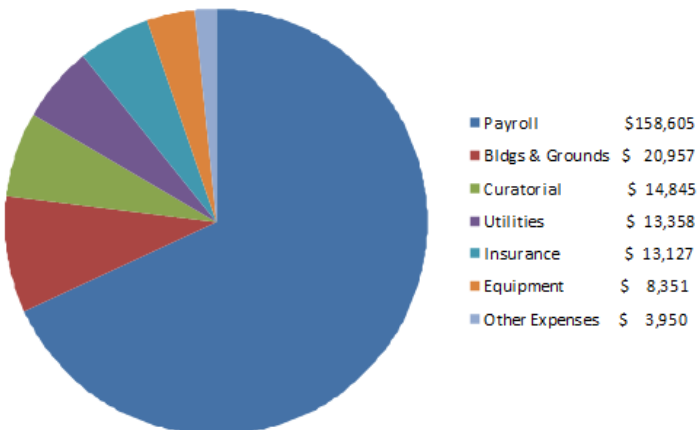


Operations

Falmouth Historical Society Operating Income 2014



Falmouth Historical Society Operating Expenses 2014





Conant House Restoration

The 1730 Conant House, the oldest remaining building along the Village Green, has been used by the Falmouth Historical Society as a venue for offices, research and exhibits for nearly 50 years. It is in need of major restoration and renovation scheduled to begin in late 2015. Community Preservation funds have been approved by Falmouth Town Meeting to assist in the preservation of the historic house.

As of May 31, 2015, the following have donated money to this project:

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Cape Cod Conservatory
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Falmouth Artists Guild
Falmouth Chamber of Commerce
Falmouth Farmers' Market
Falmouth Garden Club
Highfield Hall and Gardens
Massachusetts Historical Society
Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries

Falmouth Public School Programs

- Inspired by Nature (ages 9-12)
- All 3rd grade classes
- All 7th grade social-studies classes
- High School Ceramics Program



Exhibitions

If These Houses Could Talk

A Collaborative Exhibit with Falmouth High School Ceramics Program

Circa 1870—The Victorian Age in Falmouth

100 Years of Falmouth Businesses

Falmouth at the start of World War I

Voice of the Tide: The Life and Times of Katharine Lee Bates

Falmouth's Whaling Past

Art + History Series:

Shirah Neumann: Small Visions

Salley Mavor: Expressions in Stitches—Then and Now

Jenny Fragosa: Foul Mouth



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