



NEWS

A newsletter to inform, celebrate, promote and contribute to the community of Brookfield.



June pot luck filled the hall



Owl pellet intensity



A chocolate extravanza!

The Busiest Summer in Memory at the Old Town Hall

From June through October the Old Town Hall opened its doors to almost thirty events – including two potluck **suppers** (each with entertainment), two **dances** (contra and bluegrass), three **farmers markets** (Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative), three events for **gardeners**, a **jazz concert** (pianist Michael Arnowitz and company), an improv **comedy** troupe (Valley Improv), an informative evening with **Efficiency Vermont** representatives Jim Merriam and Jen Severidt, four weeks of “yoga night,” our second annual **spelling bee**, three “**Spoken Word**” programs, three programs we call our “Edible Treats” series, and five programs designed especially for **families** with children.

In addition, the **Brookfield Free Public Library** hosted *three* programs about Vermont history, **fiddle camp** returned for a week in August, and the **Brookfield Historical Society** brought Elisabeth von Trapp for a rousing mid-September concert at the Old Town Hall. And finally, for the fifth year running, local parents gathered their spookiest children together for a **Haunted House**.

Now, we can't go on without a bit more detail, because, truly, this was an amazing summer calendar. For the three-part “Spoken Word” series, we savored “**Pie and Poetry**” (fourth

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Yoga at the Old Town Hall

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year) and our "Poetry Slam," (year three). For the third "Word" event we filled the hall and challenged ourselves with extemporaneous storytelling, thanks to Central Vermont's competitive and exuberant "extempo."

For our "Edible Treats" series, first we brought together close to fifty cheese lovers to enjoy our **Cheese Tasting** under the guidance of cheesemonger Leslie Polubinski. Then thirty adventurers gathered to learn about **wild edibles** from "wildcrafters" Nova Kim and Les Hook. And finally, John McConnell from Waterbury's Liberty Tea Company brought a range of iced teas to fifty guests at an **iced tea tasting** in an Old Town Hall transformed by beach towels, sand pails – and the Beach Boys.

And what about the five programs specifically for families? That would include almost 120 "children of all ages" spellbound by the **No Strings Marionettes** and their wild and wacky "Nick of Time" adventure. And that was followed by our "Live Critters" Series: **The Loon Man** (John Rockwood); three live raptors brought by a lively VINS educator; and Brian Pfeiffer enchanting us with "**Monarch (butterfly)**

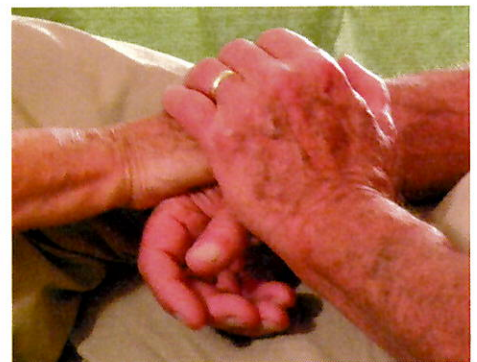
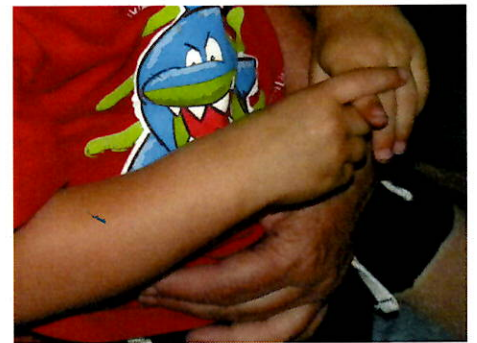
Mysteries." And event #5? That would be a crazy fun **chocolate night**: Nutty Steph's fountain of chocolate and the wonderful "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Altogether, we estimate that a total of 1500 participants enjoyed programs at the Old Town Hall this summer. We sure hope you were among them – and we'll see you again next summer!

Tasting iced tea at the "beach"



FUNDS RAISED IN 2012-13

- * \$5,405 Individual Contributions
- * \$4,475 Business Sponsorships
- * \$16,500 Foundation Grants
- * \$540 Rental of hall
- * \$2,721 Events
- * **\$29,641 Total**



Engaging hearts and hands at our events

Volunteer Mania Pushes Renovations Forward!

This year progress on renovations of the Old Town Hall was aided by a horde of eager volunteers. On some days, parties of "worker bees" swarmed the building, slowly but methodically making it the wonderful space we have all come to love.

The most visible of these projects was the painting of the main hall. A monumental effort was made more do-able by contracting out the painting of the ceiling, leaving volunteer labor to handle the walls and the trim. It was still a huge effort, and we couldn't have done it without all the volunteers who offered their time and talents. We've got some great painters in Brookfield!

If you haven't had a chance to see the paint job, we hope you'll stop in next summer or attend one of our wonderful events. We guarantee you'll be impressed!

Early summer began with a push to retire the old refrigerators in the kitchen. They were old and inefficient – our electric bill was telling us to take advantage of the Efficiency Vermont Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling Program. The word

went out via email, and over 30 of you responded with small donations – in just a few weeks, we had two new refrigerators humming away in the kitchen. Then, when word came of an auction of kitchen equipment in Randolph, Lee Duberman and Denise Holmes came home with a restaurant-quality stainless steel work station (and they've got their eye on an awesome sink, as well). Nice work!

What's a kitchen without running water? After exploring all the options, the Board decided a drilled well was the best approach, and a grant from the Lamson-Howell Foundation got us started. However, the price tag on the full "water project" exceeded the grant, so neighbor Clark Adams came up with an investment idea that was approved by the Board – he would approach potential investors to provide "patient capital" to help us get water in the building and finish the kitchen, and we would agree to pay the loan back at minimal interest. The theory behind this is that, with a functioning kitchen and running water, we will have greater opportunities to rent the hall for weddings and other functions, thus increasing our cash flow to be able to pay back the loans.

Indeed, many hands do make light work!



So, in August, the well driller pulled up and we got ourselves a well. Luckily, while some neighbors had to drill over 500 feet to water, we only had to go down a couple of hundred feet, saving much needed funds for the remaining plumbing project, which should be in place by next summer.

Thanks to all who have helped us get this far – we owe a debt of gratitude to you for helping us toward our revival of this great old landmark!



Say good-bye to the "old" town hall!

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO BROOKFIELD'S OLD TOWN HALL!

You can be sure that your tax-deductible donation will make a difference.

Checks of any amount
can be made out to

"Brookfield Community Partnership"
and sent to:

Brookfield Community Partnership

P.O. Box 452

Brookfield, VT 05036

www.brookfieldvt.org

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P.O. Box 452
Brookfield, VT
05036

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WHO SUPPORTS THE OLD TOWN HALL?

This year we are proud to present our growing list of businesses and artisans who sponsored events in 2013 or who, in other ways, supported the Old Town Hall. Our great appreciation to all of the following:

For Sponsoring One or More 2013 Summer Events, Our Hearty Thanks to . . .

Frankenburg Agency, Randolph - our Summer Series Lead Sponsor
Vermont Community Foundation for their Small and Inspiring Grant to BCP
Northfield Savings Bank
Century 21 Millstone Agency, Randolph
Compucount, Randolph
Gillespie Fuels, Randolph
Randolph National Bank
Catamount Kitchens & Design, Randolph
Chimney Savers, Randolph
Day Funeral Home, Randolph
ERA Home Town Realty, Randolph
Kinney Pike Insurance, Randolph
Magee Office Products, Randolph

For Ongoing Support to Our Renovations or Publicity, We Want to Thank . . .

Bodenweber Design, Peacham
Central Supplies, Randolph
Rule Signs, Randolph
True Colors Home Decorating, Montpelier

WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!!

Contact us at 276-3020
Tell us the projects
you would like to work on.

Thank You to the Merchants, Farms, Artisans, & Neighbors Who Supported Specific 2013 Events

All Together Farm, Randolph Center
Ariel's Restaurant, Brookfield
Betsy Hale, Brookfield
Billi and Bobby Gosh, Brookfield
Brookfield Bees, Brookfield
Brookfield Public Library, Brookfield
Bud and Bella's Bookshop, Randolph
Camp Merrishko, Brookfield
Capitol Copy, Montpelier
Fat Toad Farm, Brookfield
Field Stone Farm, Northfield
Green Mountain Girls, Northfield
Hunger Mountain Coop, Montpelier
Jen Severid, Efficiency Vermont
Jim Merriam, Efficiency Vermont
Lazy Lady Farm, Westfield
Leslie Polubinski, South Royalton
L.H. Stowell and Son, Brookfield
Liberty Orchards, Brookfield
Norton's Vermont Tobbogans
Jaquelyn Rieke, Nutty Steph's
Pagoda Pond Gardens, Braintree
Patty Becker, Brookfield
Newe Start Farm, Brookfield
Ruth Goodale, Brookfield
Spotted Dog Farm, Brookfield
Spruce Lane Farm, Brookfield
Turkey Hill Farm, Randolph Center
Valley Improv, Lebanon, NH
Vermont Creamery, Websterville
Vermont Liberty Tea Co., Waterbury

Our great appreciation goes out to all of the painters, workers, and helpers involved in restoring the Old Town Hall and helping with our events.

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