

# The Berlin Historian

Berlin Art and Historical Society Berlin, Massachusetts September 2008

## Since Last We Met

As the days grow shorter, the night temperatures drop and fall returns to New England, the Historical Society once again begins a new season of programs. Our first meeting will be our traditional potluck dinner for members starting at 6:00 P.M. followed by a business meeting. The Serendipity Trio returns to entertain us at 7:30 P.M. with dessert for guests and members at the conclusion of the entertainment.

It is a good time to reflect on our activities this summer with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. Progress on the Bullard House exterior is quite noticeable now with new clapboards and paint, the soon-to-be new shingles on the front roof and the start of perennial flower beds with day lilies donated by Golden Skep Farm. The many volunteers over the summer have made this progress possible. The restoration is turning into a real community project with people stopping by to pitch in--a real 'Tom Sawyer'-type happening.

Work will shift indoors, as the weather turns colder, to begin the plastering of walls and placing of ceilings in the kitchen, bathroom, reception area and gallery.

Our fund-raising letter sent out midsummer has elicited scores of responses with a return of over \$5,500 in contributions so far. Thank you to those who have contributed; this is an encouraging acknowledgment of our efforts. Our goal to raise \$25,000 continues, so it's not too late to make a tax-deductible donation if you were planning to do so.

## DUES ARE DUE

For those who have not yet done so, this is the obligatory gentle reminder that the annual dues are due. The revenue from the dues goes to pay for supplies, mailing the newsletter and funding events. Please use the form found on the back of the newsletter. Checks made out to the Berlin Art & Historical Society can be returned at a meeting or mailed to Treasurer, Marsha Johnston, 32 Baker Road, Berlin, MA 01503.

## Serendipity Trio

1870 Town Hall

September 27, 2008, 7:30 P.M.

The first time for a program is an event, the second becomes a tradition. So it is with the Serendipity Trio. The Trio (Nancy Dallaire, piano, Evy Dueck, violin and Don Davis, bass) will be the featured program for the season opener of the Berlin Art and Historical Society on September 27 at 7:30 P.M. in the 1870 Town Hall.

The program features the fabulous and varied music of the king of American songwriters, Irving Berlin. Interesting anecdotes about Berlin's life and music will enliven the performance and the audience is always invited to sing along or dance to the music. Walk down memory lane with "Puttin on the Ritz", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "Oh, How I Hate to Get up in the Morning" and "White Christmas", to name a few of his well-known hits. As rival composer Jerone Kern once said, "Irving Berlin has no place in American music. He is American music." Come join us for an entertaining evening of song and stories of this great musician.

All are welcome to attend the program. Donations for the Bullard House Building Fund will be accepted.

## Schedule of Events for 2008-2009

**October 25** - Old Friends & Neighbors - a look at randomly selected homes, their previous owners and where they are laid to rest.

**December 6** - Christmas in Berlin sponsored by the Berlin Lions Club. Bullard House Reception from 1 to 5 P.M.

**January 31** - The Wickstroms of Golden Skep Farm will share the restoration project of their circa 1755 colonial home at 264 Linden Street.

**March 28** - History of the Berlin Fire Department - Shirley Lipka

**April 25** - Easter Bonnets - 100 years of hats

**May 25** - Memorial Day Ice Cream Social

**June 6** - Olde Home Day

**June 13** - Annual Meeting & Election of Officers - Progress Report on the Bullard House -- Ta Da!

**ANNUAL Membership Dues-** Checks can be made payable to **Berlin Art and Historical Society** and returned at a meeting or mailed to Treasurer, Marsha Johnston, 32 Baker Road, Berlin, MA 01503.

**Individual membership is \$15.00; Family (two adults at same address) is \$25.00 and Juniors are \$1.00.**  
(Please include this form with your payment so we can keep current membership records.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_

Address changes: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want The Berlin Historian newsletter sent to you electronically only? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

## Yellow Day 1881

The 7th day of September, 1881, is remembered as presenting a strange phenomenon in nature. The atmosphere was changed to a yellow hue, and all objects assumed an unnatural color. This continued nearly all day. Some thought the world was coming to an end. Saloon keepers in some places refused to minister to their customers, fearing the day of judgement was at hand. The phenomenon is supposed to have been caused by the smoke of western fires. Excerpt taken from Houghton's History, p 201.

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The full Moon rises on September 15 at 6:50 P.M. and sets at 6:40 A.M. on the 16th. The length of day is 12 hours and 29 minutes. The Harvest Moon is the full Moon nearest the autumnal equinox and is bright enough to allow finishing all the harvest chores. On September 27, the sun will rise at 6:39 A.M. and set at 6:35 P.M. for a day length of 11 hours and 56 minutes. The new moon will rise on September 29. Excerpt from The Old Farmer's Almanac.

Look for our newly-updated 2008  
Berlin Telephone Book in the fall.

President - Richard Wheeler

Vice President - Edie Brewer

Acting Clerk - June Miller

Treasurer - Marsha Johnston

Custodian - Barry Eager

Board of Directors - Mim Ewing, Brenna Ewing, Carla Montague, Lucy Ayers



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