

Middlebury Community House News

Main Street . Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Volumn 2



Early sketch of the house Horatio Seymour built in 1816

Mission Statement:

Partners for Middlebury Community House was formed to promote financial support to assist with responsible caretaking and maintenance of the historic home belonging to the citizens of Middlebury.

The Fence Project. before and after!

Pre-summer: a close look at the fence around the Middlebury Community House showing the repair needs.



The fence has taken on a new life. We have committed to a yearly maintenance check up on all areas of the fence to maintain its beauty.

Call to Action

Fence repair went off without a hitch this summer. The Partners for the Middlebury Community House raised \$1910. as of September 1st. We sincerely thank all the interested people who joined the Partners to support this important improvement project for the Community House. We know however that there is much more fund raising to be done. Please encourage your family and friends to join our efforts. The fence repair costs were \$16,500, besides the support of the Partners organization we also received a \$3000. grant from the Vermont Community Foundation, as reported in the last newsletter. Thank you all so much!

Other summer exterior work completed is as follows, the front and back baluster were repaired and painted using special European paint that the preservation specialists suggested, costing \$100 a gallon. Our crew was very careful not to spill any of this "liquid gold". Since we had a crew on the roof, the gutters, downspouts and pipes were power washed and cleared out. The front of the building where the bricks are spalling, was power washed and primed. Woodwork and new railings were painted on the Main Street side of the building. We hope you notice the improvements to this wonderful house. Please visit us sometime soon when you are in town.



The house is very inviting, join us for a visit soon.

Looking for a Volunteer

In the fall of 2004 the Middlebury Garden Club oversaw planting of our new garden on Main Street. Plants weathered well over the winter and spring saw wonderful results. With summer construction, a lawn mover breakdown and limited house hours the garden did not get the attention we hoped it would. Looking ahead, we would love to have a community member give us volunteer hours to help our garden grow. The gift of the garden from the Woman's Club and Garden Club has further beautified the town and Community House. Consider helping us keep the beauty alive throughout the year by sharing your talent.

Join the Partners

I/We wish to become a Partner for the Middlebury Community House and help repair the fence.

- Annual Membership \$15
- Additional Contribution is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Make Checks Payable to: Middlebury Community House Partners
Mail to: 6 Main Street Middlebury, VT 05753

Contributions will go directly towards fence repair. Partners will receive two newsletters each year with information about the House and updates regarding maintenance projects. A 501 C-3 Organization, your donation is deductible in accordance with the law.

The House - Summer Use

Pat Hornbeck, our house director, tells us she had lots of fun with this summer's activities at the Community House. She hosted a youth birthday party, wedding reception, family reunion, civil union ceremony and receptions. This is the first summer that we have opened the house in many years. Normally we schedule activities at the house during the school year. Pat would like to have the house used more in the summer by the children of the community as it was before the mid 1960's. (See related story.)



Birthday celebration



Summer Play Group

I spoke with Carol Brush Cummings, who worked at the Middlebury Community House summer program during her high school years. (Late 1950 early 1960's.) I also worked there a few summers shortly after she got done (Mid 60's). We enjoyed comparing our memories and hope you enjoy learning a little more about how the house was used in the past. The children attending were three to seven years old, the program was run during the morning hours. Activities included time on the playground, creative time in the house's lower level for art projects, and had a snack of crackers or cookies and a drink. Children learned to interact with others without the comfort of their parents being near. Carol remembered the children love for the merry-go-round, the tall slide and the jungle gym on the playground. Both of us commented on how careful we needed to be not to have the children scared when the fire alarm rang at 11:15 each day. The alarm would blast only three times most days, but on Friday, it "sang out" longer. This was the day we made sure the children were all inside watching a puppet show or singing songs. Carol really enjoyed the children and recalls one little boy, presenting her with a ring from a Cracker Jacks box and asking her to marry him. When I worked at the play school, Jessica Swift was living in Middlebury and she would join us each Friday morning for an hour or so. She was an audience for the children when they performed at the end of each week. Children would dance around the May Pole, hold puppet shows, parades, or other such activity. On Friday the children would get cookies and punch instead of crackers and water. Both of us agreed this was a great job for a teenager and allowed us the opportunity to make a little money doing something we enjoyed.

Lynda Rheaume

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Letter from a new Partner

Dear Partners:

I received a copy of Middlebury Community House News from my friend of 78 years, Aris Warren Butler from Bristol, Vermont. Phyllis Cunningham will remember us both.

Aris and I had our 1st "Tea" (around 1930 or so) at The Community House - dressed up in "old fashion dresses" - we put lemon and milk in our tea and were very surprised with the curdling results.

We also spent many hours at Girl Scout Meetings in the basement rooms with Mrs. Howard as our leader.

I am a professional home manager (my own) and living by myself with my golden retriever at the age of 82 (me). This little \$15 I am sending is representing hours and hours of my hometown memories.

Jane Denton Parlman

(To help to fix the fence. . .)

Generous Community

Ellen Emerson, from Vermont Programmers, in the Marbleworks in Middlebury was one of the first people to join our new Partners organization. Along with her membership came the offer to create a web page for the Middlebury Community House and reserve our server name at no charge to the House. Please visit us at:

www.middleburycommunityhouse.org

Ellen has made our newsletter available on line. We hope more people learn about what the house can offer and the role we play in the Town of Middlebury. Thank's go out to Ellen and her company for their interest and action. You can learn more about Vermont Programmers at info@vermontprogrammers.com or by calling 398-1014.

More Generosity A slightly used John Deere lawn tractor was donated to the Middlebury Community House by David and Anne Ginevan, when they learned our mower was beyond repair. *Thank you, Anne and Dave!*

This newsletter was published as an introduction to the newly established Partners for the Middlebury Community House. Please consider becoming a supporting partner. Your interest in the Community House can ensure a solid foundation for generations to come. If you want more information please call 802-388-2071. We appreciate your time and any donation you feel able to give.

A 501-C 3 Corporation, contributions are tax deductible according to the law.