Marblehead Museum & Historical Society

2010 Annual Report

President’s Letter

In the year 2010 the Marblehead Museum began its second century of stewardship of the Jeremiah Lee Mansion. After a successful Centennial Celebration, the Museum focused its efforts on restructuring the organization in order that we may remain economically viable through these difficult times and for the next century. In the beginning of the year our computer system was replaced and our office space reconfigured, thanks to a generous donor’s contribution. We directed efforts toward restructuring our organization, with the goal of increasing our membership. In this way our annual fund donations and our endowment will also grow. We hired a Business Manager/Development Director, Joan Goloboy, a longtime volunteer and contributor, for the position. During her six-month tenure our membership initiatives were revamped, resulting in an increase in membership. At the end of the year Lynne Paschetz joined our organization as the Director of Business and Development. An experienced corporate financial officer with a Masters in Museum Studies, she brings a unique combination of talents to the position, which will help us achieve our economic goals.

Our mission to preserve, protect and promote the history of Marblehead remains constant, and the opportunity to be an integral part of our community increases with every new project. The year 2010 could aptly be described as the Year of Collaboration. The past year was outstanding for the number of community and regional organizations that partnered, supported and connected with the Marblehead Museum. In fact, we have added that as an Annual Report category, so please take the opportunity to see all the organizations and businesses listed.

Our first exhibit of 2010 was The Masons in Colonial America, an exhibit focusing on prominent Marblehead Masons in the 18th and 19th centuries. The exhibit was done in conjunction with the Marblehead Philanthropic Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons as part of their 250 year celebration. Mason Don Doliber coordinated loans from their archives, provided research and was instrumental in the success of the exhibit.

Our second exhibit Lafayette in Marblehead was a display at the Lee Mansion of Lafayette items from our collection. This display was prepared for the Grassie/Marblehead Sister City Partnership Visit of the Senator-Mayor of Grasse and his delegation.

Our third exhibit was entitled Marblehead in Black & White. Over sixty photographs of 19th and 20th century Marblehead from the collections of the Marblehead and the Museum Historical Commission were displayed at the Museum’s exhibit gallery and Abbot Hall.

At our Annual Meeting, speaker Ivan Myjer spoke about The Survey and Study of the Gravesites at Old Burial Hill. During his talk Myjer issued a challenge to find the names of the 600 Marblehead revolutionaries memorialized on a sign at the foot of Burial Hill. As a result a Genealogy Committee was formed by Lynne Ambrose, as chair, to research Revolutionary War soldiers from Marblehead. Once this project is completed, the intent is to have a genealogy capacity available at the Museum to educate members of the community about how to trace their ancestors.

Additional lectures included Don Doliber’s The Masons in Marblehead, a shared lecture with Glover’s Regiment entitled Clothing in Colonial Times, Allen Hoffman speaking about Lafayette in America, Ted Russell on Starling Burgess and Early Aviation, and Walter Hickey of the National Archives speaking on Reseacing Revolutionary War Soldiers.

2010 was a great year for events under the direction of Events Chair Diane Barbour. Our first event, the Black & White Bash, was co-chaired by Evan...
board members Sharon Pingree-Russell and Karyn Lang. Summer got off to a great start with the Ice Cream Social in partnership with the Marblehead Family Fund. The fun continued with the ever popular Lee Mansion Garden Party. In a variation on the large wine tastings that have been done in the past, a smaller Wine Tasting in the Lee Mansion, hosted by George Shube and chaired by Sharon and Mike Thibodeau and Kim Downing, was a beautiful and successful event.

As the season progressed, we offered what has become an instant Marblehead tradition, the Pumpkin Illumination, with the Marblehead Family Fund. The holiday season would not be complete without the Gingerbread Festival on Christmas Walk weekend. Over 2800 people came through the Mansion to see almost ninety gingerbread houses.

Our education commitment increased with sponsored programs for 3rd grades at Bell and Coffin Schools, Marblehead High School history classes, Marblehead Charter School, Cohen Hillel Academy, North Shore Technical High School, Beaver Academy, Salem State University, Essex LINC's and participation in the first Grade 8 Race.

Again this year, under the successful supervision of Board Member Dana Denault, our GAR exhibit attracted over 600 visitors. In the coming year with 150th commemoration of the beginning of the Civil War, we expect this number to increase substantially.

The year ended with a Holiday Party at our home in December. This event is held to thank our 102 active volunteers without whose help we could not effectively accomplish our mission. At this function we honored Marcia Hunkins, long time Photo Cataloguer and Lee Mansion Guide, with the John Stucke Volunteer Award for her exceptional contributions over the years.

As we begin 2011 we are introducing a new series of programs promoting Marblehead's history. We have named this program MARBLEHEAD 101 and it will unfold over a three year period. With this program and our reorganization, we hope to increase our membership and endowment in order that we may continue to be an integral part of the Marblehead community.

Dick Carlson, President