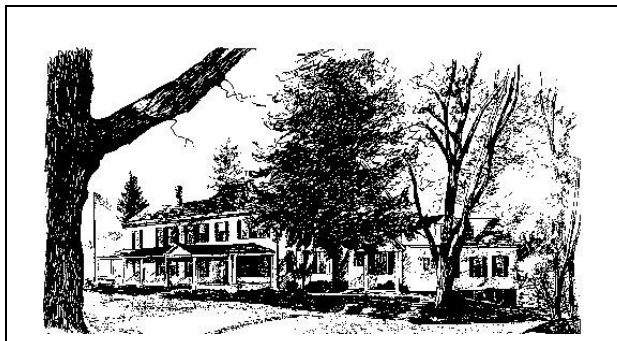




The Black Tavern

Historical Society of Dudley

Dudley Hill P.O. Box 143

Dudley, Massachusetts 01571

<http://www.theblacktavern.com/>

Tel. 508-943-8782

Newsletter January 2025

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Vice-Chair: Marc Moseley
Treasurer: William Moseley
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Ed Bazinet
Linda Bazinet
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David Proulx
Nancy Roy
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The Black Tavern Historical
Society Board of Directors is
always interested in new
people joining our group.

Should you be interested in
joining us in our mission
please contact any one of the
above members.

The Black Tavern is available
for small function rentals. For
information call Bob at
508-943-8782

Events for 2025

*(All programs held at 7 P.M. at the
Tavern unless otherwise specified, are
free and open to all, with light
refreshments to follow.)*

March 20: "Amelia Earhart" a
performance by Sheryl Faye.

April 17: "Grand Trunk Railroad"
Presented by John Mrazik.

May 15: "An Evening with Mark
Twain's Maid" presented by Linda
Hixon

TBA: Annual Third Grade Visit.

June 19: Grange Strawberry Festival
& Tavern Tours. 4 P.M.

September 18: "Besides Blue
Waters" Presented by Jeff Stefanik.

October 4: Annual Black Tavern Craft
Fair, Grange Apple Festival 10 A.M.
to 3 P.M. Rain or Shine.

October 16: "A Journey into Hell"
Presented by Bob Ducharme.

November 20: "Abigail Adams"
Presented by George Baker.

Programs are subject to change

Message from the Chair

Can you believe it, another year has
come and gone at the Tavern and I
must say time has flown by so
quickly this past year? This is not
only due everyone's own personal
busy schedules, but also due to
another busy year at the Tavern
planning and coordinating all the
monthly programs, planning and
executing several capital projects,

welcoming new financial
opportunities to keep the Tavern
thriving for the future. Our
accomplishments could not have
been achieved without all the
generous support from our
members, corporate sponsors,
local businesses, surrounding
town/communities, and
bequeathments. We sincerely
thank you all for another successful
year at the Tavern. However, there
is still more to accomplish and this
coming year is proving to be
another busy one!

During 2024, we have successfully
planned and executed several
major capital deferred
maintenance and improvement
projects to ensure the Tavern is
always in a healthy (and beautiful)
condition. Thanks to the Janet
Malser Humanities Trust, we were
able to paint the entire exterior of
the Tavern and continue with
interior lighting upgrades in the
Tavern Meeting Room, Hearth
Room and Tap Room. The Long-
Range Sub-committee also kept
busy soliciting bids and awarding
sub- contracts on two major
projects. . The first project included
a contract with the Woodstock
Building Associates to install new
"mini-split" systems to supplement
heat and air conditioning in the
Tavern's 1st Floor (including the
Museum and Meeting Rooms) and
also the caretaker's apartment.

The 2nd project entails insulating and damp-proofing the crawl spaces beneath the Museum Room and the Apartment. These two projects have been priority projects for many years and recently became financially feasible thanks to the generous bequeathments from Nancy J. Vajcovec and Priscilla Butler. The Long-Range Planning Committee plans to prioritize future capital and deferred maintenance projects for this coming year.

As we know, the Tavern's commitment to encourage the history of the Tavern, the Town of Dudley and surrounding communities, the Tavern will continue to provide wonderful and exciting programs and events throughout the coming years. This year, along with the monthly programs, the Tavern will also continue with the its annual events: the annual 3rd grade tours; the Chris Ducharme Foodshare Program; Scholarship Award(s); and private Tavern tours. I wish to particularly acknowledge the success of this year's annual Craft Fair, under the direction of Board member Deborah Bazinet, for taking over the lead on this annual fundraising event. Deborah's work included reviewing the past program issues and developing new ideas for the event and revisions to the vendor agreement terms and conditions to help the event be more seamless and successful in the future. Great job Deb! We appreciate all you (and volunteers) did to make this event another success. (And we lucked out with the weather!)

There have been a few changes to the Board membership this past

year. The Board gained a new member this past year when the Board voted in our youngest Board member, Alek Poirier, to join our team. With Alek's interest in history and giving back to the community, he will continue to bring fresh new ideas from a "younger" perspective and help foster more participation from the younger generation within our community.

The Board is also most grateful to Marc Moseley who has stepped up to fill the Vice-Chairman position, vacated by me when I became Chair. Marc has not only been a long-standing member, but also one of several Board members who are direct descendants of the Black Tavern family! Marc has contributed to many of the major and critical Board discussions with his effective thought process and suggestions. I look forward to his continued support and knowledge throughout this coming year...and years to come!

Also, the Board's longtime Treasurer, Will Moseley has decided to step down as Treasurer of the Board, effective December 2024. Over the years, Will has instrumentally and successfully fulfilled the Treasure's role in managing all of the Tavern's finances, Will has conscientiously ensured steady growth of the Tavern assets over the years, to help support our deferred maintenance and major projects, as well as increased the Tavern's "rainy day" fund. Will's tireless efforts have left the Tavern in a great financial position, as we move forward over the years to come. For that, the Board wishes to thank Will for all his leadership,

commitment to excellence, professionalism and expertise as Treasurer,

As mentioned previously, the Tavern is heading into another busy year and I must reinforce that we could not be as successful as we are without the knowledge and support of many good people, including all our members, our local businesses, and corporate sponsors, who not only contribute financially, but also physically step up when help is needed. Thank you all for your continued support and let's make 2025 another banner year!

Oh, and don't forget the Tavern Tours! If you would like a personal or group tour of the Tavern, given by our historian/caretaker, Bob Ducharme, please call or email the Tavern and he would be glad to set up a date and time to give a tour of the Tavern. If you cannot make it to the Tavern due to where you live, or for other reasons, please feel free to check out our website and find a "PBS-like" video which the Tavern produced several years, ago on the history, including and a tour of the Tavern. You will absolutely love it!

Bob Grzyb

Caretakers Report

The year 2024 was one that would see many upgrades to the building and grounds here at the Black Tavern. Early in the year, a long range planning committee was formed to create a 5 year maintenance plan in order to identify needed upgrades to the infrastructure of our property. After prioritizing the items, the

following upgrades have already taken place.

In late 2023, Webster Plate Glass was awarded the contract to install 50 storm windows, to replace the existing 40 year old windows. After taking measurements for the windows, the job was put on hold because the contractor's supplier had a difficult time getting materials to make the new windows. Eventually the problem was solved and new windows arrived in January. The first phase of installation began in February, when weather permitted, with the replacement of some of the storm windows on the front porch, and north end of the Museum Room. Later in May, with the arrival of warmer weather, the rest of the job was completed. This project was funded by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust and we thank them for their continued support to the Tavern.

In February new storm doors were installed in the apartment, replacing the original storm doors installed in the 1980's and a new kitchen stove was also purchased for the apartment.

Later in February, following up on our upgrade of lighting fixtures in the kitchen and hallways done last year, Ed Bazinet took the lead on another project to upgrade our lighting and electrical outlets in other rooms of the Tavern. Our electrician Brian Benoit, along with Ed's assistance, installed recessed ceiling lighting in the Tap room, Hearth room, Meeting room and Museum room. New wiring and electrical outlets were installed in the Meeting room with more to come in other rooms. We now enjoy bright rooms, with no older

lamps and long extension cords to worry about.

In June, painting contractor Misael Fossas painted the entire Tavern and front porch. This involved scraping all loose paint, priming with an oil based primer and painting two coat of paint. This project also was funded in part by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. Thank you.

In June, Dean Mason Paving was awarded a contract to replace the deteriorated paving of the back driveway at the Tavern. The old driveway was removed, the surface regraded to lower the slope, and a new asphalt driveway was installed. This will make snow removal during storms a little easier.



Paving back driveway

In December, a contract was awarded to Woodstock Building Associates LLC to install Mini Splits in the Meeting Room, and Museum Room, and on first and second floors of the apartment, in order to improve the heating and cooling in these areas. Work on this project has started this January.

This year we hope to continue completing more projects identified

as needed in our 5 year maintenance plan.

In addition to these major upgrades, there is always routine maintenance and surprises to this old building and its grounds that pop up throughout the year. In early June we experienced a sewage back up. We called Slims & Berthiaume Sewer Service and after inspection we were informed that we had a blockage in the sewer line in the back yard of the Tavern. With further investigation they found that the problem was a collapsed section of old Orangeburg pipe (installed years ago) which needed to be replaced. A temporary fix was performed at the time and eventually, in September, the back deck was removed so that the area could be excavated and a new sewer line installed, after which the deck was replaced.



Removing back deck

If you have not yet renewed your 2025 membership, please use the form on the back of this newsletter to do so.

Thank you.



New sewer line

In July, as routine servicing of the furnaces was taking place, the service men noticed that we had a leak in the water line, near the water meter. We were fortunate that the leak was noticed at that time and we were able to have the problem repaired before a serious break occurred.

One day this fall, all the fire alarms in the Tavern and apartment went off. In a panic, I raced around the building searching for the source and I could find nothing. So I called the fire department. Shortly thereafter the fire trucks arrived and the crew conducted a search. After disconnecting what they said was a defective alarm it seemed the problem was solved. And they returned to the station. About ten minutes later, the alarms sounded again. So after another call, they returned again and determined that all the alarms had expired dates on them. I recalled that I had put in new alarms ten years ago. So we purchased ten new smoke and CO alarms and had them installed in the Tavern and apartment,

replacing those that had expired. Later in the fall, our ten existing fire extinguishers were recharged and are good for another 6 years. Never a dull moment here at the Tavern! Each year routine maintenance of the grounds around the Tavern takes place when spring arrives. Fortunately I find working in the yard a labor of love and I look forward to working in the gardens every year. After initial spring lawn maintenance of raking, thatching, re-seeding, aerating, liming, and fertilizing was completed, I began working on the gardens.

There are 18 gardens on the property of the Black Tavern. Can you believe it? Some large like the Civil War garden or the shade garden way down in back, and some tiny like the morning glory garden around the "Healy sign" pole. Seven annual flower gardens, seven perennial gardens and my four small raised bed veggie gardens.



In front of the Tavern, there are four flower gardens that the Tavern purchases flowers for and I plant each year, plus one perennial garden in front of the barn that needs little maintenance. In the backyard, there are two annual flower gardens and three perennial gardens. I purchase the flowers for the two annual flower gardens, as Chris and I always have done since we moved here. *(I just love to plant these and consider it my back yard)*. After the flower gardens are planted, I dress them with mulch that I sift from two year old compost made from that year's fall leaves and the following spring's lawn clippings. I divide the plants in the perennial gardens when they need an occasional separating and dividing as they get crowded. Also, in the backyard I have my four small raised bed veggie gardens,

most of which I fill with plants that I start from seed. In front of the apartment front door there are three perennial gardens that I tend to and I also plant some annuals in them, to give a little more color. Finally, how can I forget the porch geraniums that I try to tend to as well as Chris used to. Hope she approves of the job I am doing on them.

Besides all the upgrades and maintenance that goes on here at the Tavern, we can't forget some of the activities that take place during the year and we look forward to them as spring approaches. We hope you can join us in at least some of them.

- **Speaker programs** that take place the third Thursday of each month. This year's programs will take place on March 20, April 17, May 15, September 18, October 16, and November 20. *(See the front page for details)*
- **Mimi's Annual Food Drive**
Please join us this Easter season, along with the Family of Christine Ducharme, for the 3rd Annual Mimi's Food Drive as we collect food for local food pantries and non-profit organizations who work directly with those in need.
- **Annual Third Grade Visit**
Students of the third grade at Dudley Elementary School will be visiting the Black Tavern for their annual field trip on June 4th. This is an important

event In order to pass the history of the Black Tavern along to the next generation. We are looking for a few of our members to step forward and volunteer to assist with this event. Please, we will not throw you to the lions. If you volunteer you will be paired with a veteran until you feel comfortable taking over your space.

- **Annual Strawberry Festival June 19th**
Join our friends across the street at Dudley Grange and enjoy a Strawberry Shortcake then join us for a free tour of the Black Tavern.
- **12th Annual Craft Fair and Grange Apple Festival Oct. 4th**
Join us on Dudley Hill for this annual fall celebration showcasing over 40 crafters located inside the Tavern, barn, front porch, lawn, and Town Common and enjoy some fresh apple crisp being sold by our friends at the Dudley Grange.

Bob Ducharme

Please consider volunteering for the Third Grade Visit
This is one of our major outreach programs of the year.
If we are going to continue this program we need help.
If interested in helping, call
Dave Proulx at 508-949-0804 or
Bob Ducharme at 508-943-8782

Membership Report

It is with pride and gratitude that I share this information with you. Thank you for your continued backing, as members of the Black Tavern Historical Society. Times have been difficult for many of us but your devotion to our "Gem on the Hill" has not waned. Our membership is as strong as ever, with over 170 people/families who continue to support and save such an important part of Dudley's history. With this funding, we can annually offer informational and entertainment programs, a rental space for small gatherings, a yearly craft fair and hopefully, more activities in the coming years. Please join or renew your membership to help us save the history of Dudley for generations to come. Membership forms are found at the end of this newsletter, or if you are already a member, you will receive a renewal letter in the mail in early January. Thank you for your interest and support of the Black Tavern.

Nancy Roy



**BTHS Board of Directors with
new member Alek Poirier**

Black Tavern Craft Fair

The 11th Annual Black Tavern Craft Fair was a huge success! This was my second year of organizing the event. I have been an active participant of the Craft Fair since the first one, and am honored to keep it going with Karen Mosely stepping down from coordinating the event. In the past years we have had many rainy days but this year we lucked out and had a beautiful fall day. We had 36 crafters and local artisans with their handmade crafts. Many were new to participate in the event to make it a great day. Following the event, I reached out to all vendors to obtain their feedback. One response in particular stood out to me. It stated that this Craft Fair was the most organized craft fair that they had ever participated in. There are a lot of details that go into organizing the event not only with the Tavern but all the details of the placement of the vendors and new vendors! The board members came together to help with the setting up of the spaces the day before and were very helpful with assisting crafters to unload their crafts. A big thank you to all of our crafters and board members for making this a great day on Dudley Hill. This spring I will be sending out emails to prior vendors and starting to work on the 12th annual Black Tavern Craft Fair. New crafters are welcome, as this is a growing event. A huge thank you too all.

Deb Bazinet



**View from the street at the
2024 Craft Fair**

BTHS Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee was pleased to award the 2024 Black Tavern Historical Society scholarships to Harry Keenan, Kelsey Brown and Daniel Lincoln in the amount of \$1,000 each. All three applicants showed strong interest in history and the social sciences, are academically outstanding, and have bright futures ahead!

The Scholarship Committee will be looking for applicants for 2025 to award a total of \$3000 to one, two or three recipients, depending on application volume and eligibility. Eligible applicants must be 1) a student of Shepherd Hill Regional High School 2) a resident of Dudley or Charlton and 3) planning to pursue a degree in history or other social studies. Application forms will be available in the Shepherd Hill guidance office. Applications, including all required accompanying materials, must be submitted by the first Friday in April (April 4).

Marc Moseley

Corporate Sponsors

We'd like to "Thank" our corporate sponsors for helping to make our 2024 programs possible.

O'Connor Insurance

Pete's Tire

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Webster First Federal Credit Union

Webster Five Cents Savings Bank

Webco Chemical Corporation

Yummy's Restaurant

Cam's Oil

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Richard Androlewicz Rampco

Restoration Project 19th Century Farm Bench from Convent Station, NJ

Donated to the Black Tavern by former Nichols College Professor Edward Warren, in memory of his wife, Sarajane, beloved artist, teacher and antiques dealer.

Watch for the finished bench on the Tavern porch this summer!



Ed Bazinet

2024 Black Tavern Historical Society Membership

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Tom & Lee Boyd

Will & Karen Moseley

John, Joy, John & Megan Glynn

Sandra Peterson & Mark Smith

HEALY SOCIETY (\$500+)

Robert & Sheryl Grzyb

John G Vanderaa

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Sarah Williams Banks by her daughter Barbara H. Gurney.

Cappy Bateman by Carol Ann Eaton.

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Thomas Charles Yacuzzi by Carol Ann Eaton.

Carolyn Velier Earp by Barbara Brown, Carol Ann Eaton, Nancy K. Adams, Connie Galli, Susan Desaulnier, Tammy S. Ruda, Rosemary, Jacob, & David Sadowski, Jo-Ann Szymczak.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As of 12/31/24

The Black Tavern Historical Society is most grateful to the individuals and businesses who have supported it financially and/or "in kind."

Every effort has been made to ensure these lists are accurate and complete. If there are, however, any errors or omissions, we apologize and ask that you notify the Society at P.O. Box 143, Dudley, MA 01571. Thank you.

BLACK TAVERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your generous contributions help support our initiatives

Individual \$10 _____

Family \$15 _____

Patron \$50+ _____

Benefactor \$100+ _____

Healy Society \$500+ _____

Please provide your personal/family information, so we may correct our records and contact you with newsletters, announcements, special events and mailings throughout the year:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please check if you would like to:

_____ Help on workdays

_____ Help at Third Grade Visit

What type of programs, specific topics or historical figures would you be interested in the Tavern sponsoring in future years? _____

Checks are payable to: Black Tavern Historical Society

Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley, Inc. is a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization.

Please return **entire** form to:

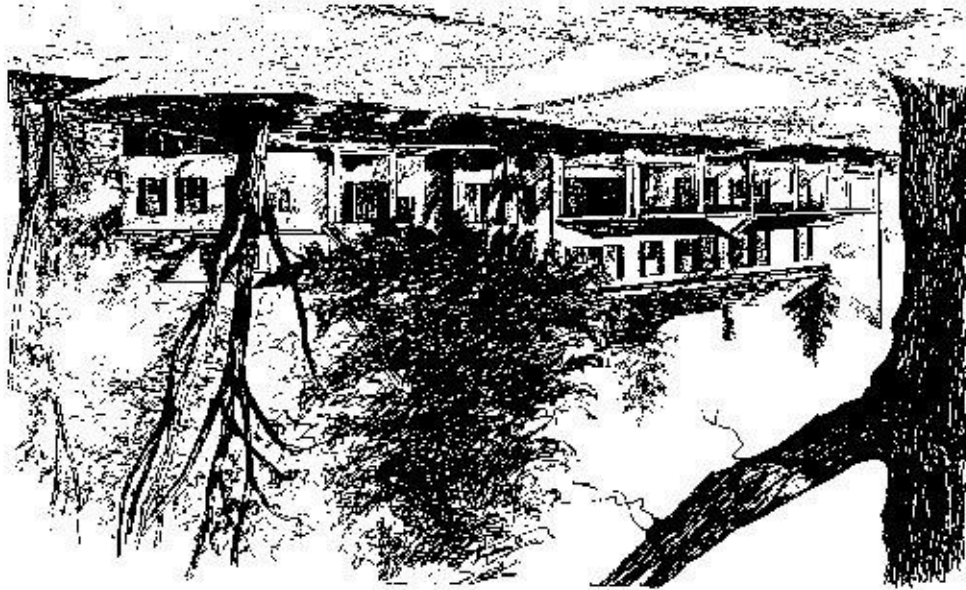
Membership Committee

Black Tavern Historical Society

P.O. Box 143

Dudley, MA 01571

Visit us on the web for more information at: ***www.theblacktavern.com***



**Black Tavern Historical Society
P.O. Box 143
Dudley, MA 01571**

Like to receive updates about the Tavern via email? Go to www.theblacktavern.com and then to “contact us” and let Bob Ducharme know your email address.