



Barre Historical Society

PO Box 496, Barre, VT 05641 ■ 802-479-5600 ■ oldlaborhall.org

April 9, 2016

Dear Friend of the Old Labor Hall,

The Board of Directors and other loyal volunteers continue to improve the Old Labor Hall on Granite Street in Barre. A pumping system has been installed that will reduce future flood damage. As part of that project, the entire basement now has a concrete floor, which has reduced the dampness and humidity in the building. The adjacent Union Cooperative Store bakery building has been given a new roof and the porch repaired, with plans in place to renovate the interior into a teaching bakery.

None of this exciting work would have been possible without the widespread support the Barre Historical Society has received, not only from the citizens of Barre, but also from the residents of central Vermont and beyond. In turn, the Labor Hall continues to give back to the community—serving as an affordable event space for concerts, political rallies, craft shows, dances, weddings, and meetings for an amazing number of different organizations. And, following in the footsteps of the Italian granite workers who built the Hall and made it the center of community life in Barre, we will once again host the annual *Primo Maggio* dinner (see the enclosed card).

But preserving and protecting this 115 year old treasure is not always easy. The time has come when we must address the deterioration in the exterior brickwork, which includes crumbling bricks and actual bulging of the walls. Delay will only result in the need for more difficult and costly repairs in the future.

Because the Hall, a National Historic Landmark, is such an important building, we must be careful to follow historic preservation guidelines in all renovation work. Fortunately, a team of students from UVM has analyzed samples of the original mortar so that we will be able to duplicate it for the brick work that needs to be done.

So once again, we turn to you, our loyal supporters, and ask for your help in funding this important work. Please make a generous donation toward the badly needed brick work and please come and celebrate *Primo Maggio* with us as well.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ruttenberg, President

Karen Lane, Vice President