



Barre Historical Society

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

December 2017

Dear Friend of the Labor Hall,

The Socialist Workers Party Hall on Granite Street in Barre continues to serve as a vibrant cultural center for Barre and central Vermont. Recurring events include:

- programs on Barre's granite history
- the annual performance by Bread and Puppet Theater
- *La Soirée Sucrée* pastry tasting and music during Barre Heritage Days
- Labor history-related film series, and of course,
- Primo Maggio, one of the great celebratory events of the Italian granite workers who built the Hall in 1900 as their social, political, and cultural center.

Today, 117 years later, the Hall continues to serve as a place for celebrations, an affordable meeting space for nonprofit groups, and a venue for speakers on a wide range of political and cultural topics. **Your donation will help to keep this irreplaceable institution running for years to come.**

Essential renovation of the Labor Hall continues as well. Visitors will notice that crumbling brickwork has been restored in many sections of the Hall. This work has been done with funds provided by generous donations from our supporters to match a FEMA grant for restoration of the lower six feet of the building. The all-volunteer Board of directors deeply appreciates the loyal support of the many donors from Barre and beyond who have made the ongoing restoration of this National Historic Landmark a reality.

But the brickwork is not finished. There is serious buckling of the brick wall, both at the rear of the Hall and along the side. In addition, there are gaps around the windows along the north side of the building. Both of these problems threaten the integrity of the exterior brick facade which is more than a century old.

Fixing this brickwork is an urgent priority and we need to raise \$10,000 to cover the remaining cost of repair. Your contributions will support the completion of the most needed brickwork and allow the Historical Society to focus future work on renovating the other rooms in the hall for use, expanding access to historical information and programming, and more.

We hope you will be able to help us reach our \$10,000 goal so that the Labor Hall can continue as a vital and exciting center of cultural and educational activity for many decades to come.

Thank you for your generous support,

Ruth Ruttenberg, President

Karen Lane, Vice President