

Barre Historical Society

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

October 2018

Dear Friend of the Labor Hall,

These are exciting times for the Barre Historical Society in its ongoing work to preserve and improve the historic Socialist Labor Party Hall. **On Labor Day the beautifully renovated bakery behind the hall, complete with a large brick oven, was opened to enthusiastic visitors who were treated to the first bread baked there in almost eighty years.** From 1913, for nearly 30 years, the building housed Barre's largest bakery, the Union Cooperative Store Bakery, which is now The Rise Up Bakery. The bakery will serve as a non-profit training facility for aspiring young bakers as well as a startup artisan bakery - 3 or 4 days a week with young apprentices.

In another piece of very welcome news, **the Historical Society has been awarded a \$6,025 Cultural Facility Grant by the Vermont Arts Council** to renovate and restore the historic "Green Room" just off the great room of the hall. This room is where famous speakers (perhaps Eugene Victor Debs and Mother Jones) and entertainers prepared to enter the main room to the applause of large audiences. Nowadays, it is also where brides and their attendants prepare for weddings.

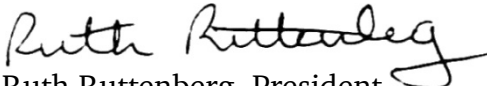
The Green Room was unusable for many years due to structural problems and became a storage area. After the recent floods, the electrical boxes for the Hall were moved from the basement to the room as well. **But the Green Room holds great potential as a staging area, an additional meeting space for smaller groups, and for exhibits celebrating the rich history of the Hall and Barre.**


The Vermont Arts Council grant requires the Historical Society to match the grant with its own funds and thanks to your generosity in response to a previous appeal, those matching funds are available for the renovation project. Necessary work includes **restoration of the plaster, paint, wainscoting, lighting, and tin ceiling, as well as repair and finishing of the badly damaged floor.**

But the combined funds will not cover all the work needed to restore the room to its former glory. For example, the temporary electrical panel and wiring need to be moved to a non-public area of the building, cabinetry and display areas need to be installed, and we want to continue our floor restoration to include the front hallway.

Thus we are asking you, our valued supporters, to **help us raise at least an additional \$9,000 to finish the job in a way that respects the historic nature of the room.** We believe that a beautiful new room will make the hall even more attractive and useful to community groups and other renters.

Thank you for your generous support,


Ruth Ruttenberg, President

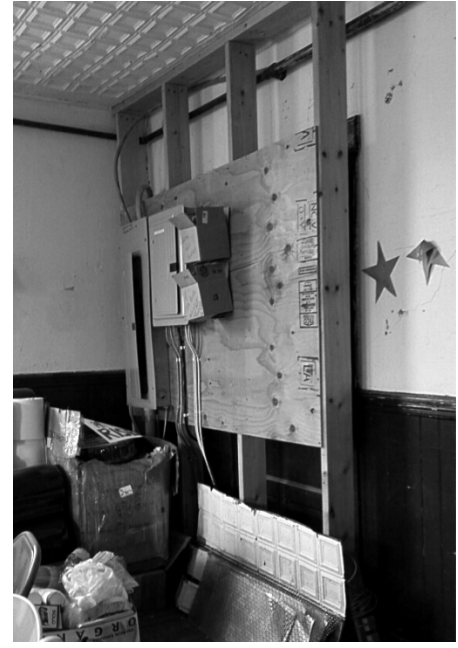

Karen Lane, Vice President

The "Green Room" from 1995 to 2018



The Green Room not long after the BHS acquired the Old Labor Hall in 1995. The color was bright chartreuse on the top and dark green on the bottom, hence its name.

LEFT: facing toward the Main Hall. **Right:** facing Granite Street.



LEFT: Green Room ceiling propped after discovery of faulty roof structure. **Center:** Green Room plaster. **RIGHT:** temporary electrical panel installed after flood emergency.

Keep up with the action! We like to keep our friends up to date on the preservation and restoration activities at Old Labor Hall and the Bakery Building and events sponsored by the Barre Historical Society. You can get the news without any cost to you or us by:

- **Email** Subscribe to our *eNews* (no more than 12 per year). Sign up at **oldlaborhall.org**.
- **Facebook** For the most frequent updates, information, and community, "Like" and "Follow" **facebook.com/OldLaborHall**
- **Twitter** "Follow" us **@OldLaborHall**.

Questions? email info@oldlaborhall.org; phone **802-479-5600**; text **802-331-0013**