

# Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

## Co-Presidents Message

We are excited about leading the Job Lane this year! This year's Bedford Day booth was simple but we did have interest in the tours. We have had our open houses and some private visits. Julia's cousins from California were enthralled by the house one Friday morning. And Julia was invited to dedication of Olive's chair that was so sweet, with stories and treats! We had the BEST zucchini pineapple bread from Olive's niece to top off the tea time and managed to get the recipe too. Lots of fun ideas from all the Directors for the fall and next spring. For the fall we'll have a member party, and in the spring we plan to have a Rufus Porter focused event presenting our mural and Rufus' other Bedford murals together.

Yours, Julia and Carol

### 2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

#### Officers

Carol Hand and Julia Whiteneck, Co-Presidents  
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer  
Dorothy Africa, Secretary  
  
Roy Kring, Operations Director  
John Linz, HPC Representative

#### Directors

Dorothy Africa	2026
Carol Hand	2026
Kate Reynolds	2026
Ralph Hammond	2027
Kimberly Sweet	2027
Julia Whiteneck	2028
Sharon McDonald	2028



*Bedford Day Booth 2025*



*House Tour Team*

## ***OPERATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT***

House tours continued through the summer months welcoming several visitors to each open house. Thanks to our seasoned tour guides and our Student Museum Docents, we receive positive comments from our visitors. The Student Docent program is back for a third year, sponsored by the Bedford Cultural Council. Improving the gift shop is an ongoing project. We are able to take credit card payments for house tours and gift shop sales.

House tours were given to special groups including Lane family descendants and Carlton-Willard residents. Special Activities including Children's Games presented by Kate Reynolds were well received. Virginia Steele's presentation on use of wood in colonial times was very informative. All events are published on the Bedford Citizen Website Event Calendar and on the Job Lane Farm Museum website <https://joblanefarmmuseum.org>. My personal thanks for the dedication and hard work of our small group of house tour guides and activity leaders.

Please consider contributing to our Fall Fundraiser, attached to this Broadside. We are a small group of volunteers working to make the Job Lane Farm Museum an attractive place to visit and learn the history of the house and inhabitants. We appreciate your support of the non-profit organization and our programs.



***Children's Games Activity***

## A LOVELY VISIT

Karen (Candy) Peterson gave this dry sink to the Friends of the Job Lane House. She purchased it and, she told me that if we find a better one, she wants hers back. So, I would assume we should be looking. But we love hers.



Hilary Peterson Falco, the oldest daughter of Karen and Harold Peterson, of Brookline, was visiting. Candy's father was Raymond Dutton of Carlisle. I met him once at the House. There is a nice article written about him, with his picture and their home in the Carlisle Mosquito.

Hilary had not visited the house but had wanted to see it and the donation of the Dry Sink her mother had made to the Friends. She called early on Friday Morning, August 8 (before 6 am), thinking it would be an answering machine.

She felt that it was early and did not want to tell me what she said was a "long story", I asked her name, Hilary Peterson. So I asked: Is it the Dry Sink? Who else would have known? We agreed to have her come with her mother at 1 in the afternoon. Sharon McDonald was not available to come, and they missed her. She purchased several things in the Gift Shop; and gave a donation for the Dutton fund. The rest is just beginning to be told. Loved our tour.

- Jeannette Pothier, Tour Guide, Furnishing Committee Chair, Membership Chair

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

We gathered to View Olive's Chair.

After Olive (Dutton) Nolin 's chair was viewed by her family and friends, we sang Happy Birthday Olive. Not many people can celebrate at 108! Olive, a Dutton, grew up in the house that Job Lane built in 1713, 312 years old. We wanted to have something to remember Olive by. She was the last person along with her parents and sister to live there.



I met Olive and became friends. She would visit us, and we would follow her and write down her every words. She wrote what it was like to grow up in the house . We began our presentation with Dorothy Africa talking about what friends who could not attend, said about Olive. Then we had her notes talking about growing up in the house. She had 3 x 5 cards, (using the other side of those that were previously used), her notes about what to write about, and the years it took to write them. Twelve pages later, with pictures of the old house, I shared these with Sharon McDonald, who had known Olive. We both read from these notes, and these told us a lot and they were personal, but funny too.

Carol NolinSmith, Olive's daughter shared personal notes too. Olive's notes started when I invited her to be the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting on March 18, 1989. She summarized the

talk by talking about the chores she had to do along with her sister Elinor. But what was obvious was how cold the house was, and how they kept warm, and heated soap stone to stand on to wash dishes in the winter. I found a note that she said, it was like a primitive way of life now that she looked back on it.

They owned 60 acres of land, and her father, Warren, took care of it. The well is still across the street. Her mother, Lillian, was an herbalist and had a mail order herb business. To this day we keep 4 raised beds at the Kitchen door with herbs she would have had. Many were found in the fields, like Apple Mint, Florentine Iris, and the Gaa Plant to name a few.

With the Chair and Olive's name on it, Olive will sit and watch over us, and her olde house. We are happy to be able to provide such a lasting bit of history to the house.

In attendance were Carol NolinSmith, Olive's daughter, Karen (Dutton) and Harold Petersen, Karen's father was Raymond Dutton, Ginny (Nolin) Johnson, Dorothy Africa, Julia Whiteneck, Sharon McDonald, Denise Dube, and myself. Having been at the museum since before it opened in 1983, my life has been enriched by meeting all the special friends - the Duttons and Lanes.

Jane Dutton, daughter of Frances and Hazel Dutton of Carlisle was not able to attend. She is 97 years old and has a wheelchair that we could not accommodate to enter the house. She gave me a tea set that I am giving to the house. It is now on display on the Great Hall Harvest Table. See the article in this Broadside issue.

~ Jeannette Pothier Furnishing Committee Chair.

## MARY STEWART HAFER

Sept 7, 1924-August 16, 2025



Mary was born in Newburgh, NY. She graduated from Swarthmore College in 1945 with a Bachelor's Chemistry degree. She earned a Master's degree in

Library Science from Simmons College, which she put to good use in the Bedford Library.

On June 8, 1946, she married Frederick Hafer at West Point. Their marriage lasted nearly 70 years until his death in 2016. Their children are Thomas Frederick Hafer, John Stewart Hafer and Abigail Ann "Abby" her son-in-law Alan MacRobert (husband of Abby). Mary was predeceased by her son John in 2005 and her daughter Abby in 2025. She is also survived by five grandchildren.

She was Citizen of the Year in 1988 in recognition of her work for the Job Lane House and the Bedford Historical Society. She was also active with the deCordova Museum and the Museum of Science.

Mary was part of the committee that oversaw the Job Lane House becoming the museum it is today. She taught us about its history, architecture and how to give tours. She also donated the Trapunto coverlet on the Canopy bed. When she saw it, she said come to my house and pick a coverlet. It is either her or Fred's grandmother. There is also a blue-wing chair in the parlor that she donated to us in August 2022. We have invited the family to visit us.

## WILLIAM "BILL" MCDANIEL



Bill passed away on April 7, 2025, at age 70 after a short illness. He and his wife April, and daughter Nathalie lived in Bedford until they moved to Singapore for Bill's job. They have been life members and good friends for a very long time.

He was a lifelong photographer. Bill was heavily involved in many non-profit educational communities over the years, serving terms as president of the Massachusetts Orchid Society and the Sussex (NJ) County Bird Club. Bill loved reptiles, marine biology, astronomy, science fiction, and listening to rock and roll music. Bill was also an intrepid world traveler and visited over 40 countries across six continents. Bill's family came first in everything he did. He was a loyal friend. Bill was a kind, gentle man and he is deeply missed.

Nathalie, as a very young child, loved coming to the Job Lane House where April gave tours. She learned all about giving tours, and at 8 years old she could give the tours herself, and she did. She loved playing outdoor games there. Nathalie is now married to Erik and they have a beautiful one year old daughter, Arabella. At the present time they are living in South Boston for Erik's work.

If you knew them, donations may be made to [The Nature Conservancy](#).

We send our love and sympathy to the family.



Friends of the Job Lane House

P O Box 720/295 North Road

Bedford, MA 01730

October 2025

Dear Friends of the Job Lane House,

This year has been a busy year for the Job Lane Farm Museum. As an all-volunteer non-profit organization, we are tasked by the Town of Bedford with presenting the Job Lane House to the public. The dedicated group of volunteer house tour guides has been able to cover every scheduled Sunday, supplemented by our Student Museum Docent program for interested Bedford High School students, supported by the Bedford Cultural Council. We receive many positive comments from our visitors. We also had a children's games day, a presentation about use of wood in colonial times, and visits by Lane descendants.

Your gift to this Fall Fundraiser for the Job Lane Farm Museum will help the Friends to continue to maintain the Museum facility and provide resources to have more family activities during the 2026 season.

To contribute a gift of any size to the Job Lane Farm Museum's Annual Fund, you may **give online** or make your check payable to "Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc." and mail to PO Box 720, Bedford, MA 01730. The Job Lane Farm Museum is a private, non-profit 501c (3) charitable organization. All donations to the Museum are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Friends of the Job Lane House Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 29, 2026 at Old Town Hall in Bedford. Please consider being a volunteer tour guide. Rent the barn for your event. Visit the website for more information:

<https://joblanefarmmuseum.org>

Thank you!

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Please send this part with your donation:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

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P.O. Box 720  
Bedford, MA 01730