Hello Friends,
As winter begins, we are looking ahead to Christmas by Candlelight and a new year as well as reflecting on the last several months. Fall was, as always, an amazing time of year at Old Sturbridge Village, from the 9th Annual Overseers' Gala to The Sleepy Hollow Experience and everything in between. Who could have predicted that 7,500 tickets for an entirely new event would sell out in a matter of weeks more than two months before it even began?

We were thrilled to partner with Brian Clowdus Experiences to bring the outdoor, theatrical The Sleepy Hollow Experience to the Village. With this year’s success in mind, we are already hard at work planning for next year and exploring other new theatre experiences, as well as improvements to visitor orientation, collections and exhibitions, and program and interpretation.

Leading the Village into the future is our new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Robert “Bob” Reeder. Bob and his family have been involved with the Village for many years, and we are thrilled to have him leading the Board.

To mark his first year as Chairman, Bob and his wife, Lorraine, have issued a challenge—they will match all new and increased gifts to the Annual Fund up to $100,000. Thank you to all of you who have already helped us meet the Chairman’s Challenge.

We appreciate your support and all that you do for the Village. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
Jim Donahue, President and CEO

Looking to the New Year

A beloved stop at the Village, the Pottery Shop is the original workshop of farmer and potter Hervey Brooks from Goshen, Connecticut, built circa 1819. At the shop, amidst piles of pots and mugs, visitors chat with our skilled interpreters as they create redware items just like rural potters of the 1830s.

The Pottery Shop has a magical quality to it—and for some, like volunteer Anthony Kulakusky, the pull of the wheel was too strong to resist. Tony remembers coming to the Village as a child and knew he wanted to find a volunteer position when he retired from his long-time position at the production company Saint-Gobain in 2015. He just wanted to “put some smiles on people’s faces,” a goal that is certainly achieved when he shows up to volunteer at the Pottery Shop twice a week.

Tony worked for a branch of Saint-Gobain in Worcester, MA, the former site of Norton Abrasives. Norton Company began as a small entrepreneurial pottery shop that invented the first grinding wheel. Now, Norton and Saint-Gobain produce industrial ceramics and abrasives for clients around the world. After a year of volunteering, Tony understands how the Village shares the same dedication to historic craft and quality as major ceramics companies like his former employer. Because of his love for the Pottery Shop, he was able to facilitate the incredible donation of specially-cut refractory shelving for the Village’s pottery kilns, valued at $13,000. These

Volunteer potter Tony Kulakusky works in the Pottery Shop (bottom left), is pictured with the Village’s modern kiln (top left) and historic updraft bottle kiln, both of which are benefitting from the donated refractory shelving.

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A Generous Donation Fires Up the Pottery Shop

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**Overseers Gather for Fall Meeting**

At the annual fall meeting of the Overseers on the first Saturday of November, Overseers gathered from around the country to meet with President Jim Donahue and Chairman of the Overseers Joan McGrath to discuss upcoming events and the Village’s plans for the future.

Old Sturbridge Village’s Overseers, comprised of over 100 people from all backgrounds and experiences, serve as the supporting leadership entity underneath the Board of Trustees. Overseers offer critical support in many different ways such as participation on committees, volunteering throughout the Village, or connecting OSV to new partners in our community.

The Overseers also host the Village’s major fundraising event, the annual Gala, as well as the well-attended Speaker Series lectures. The most recent lecture featured Brock Jobe, professor emeritus at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware and OSV Trustee, who gave a fascinating look at the antiques trade from the 1950s to the present. Keep an eye out for the 2017 Speaker Series schedule coming soon.

We are so thankful for all the Overseers and everything they do to further the mission of Old Sturbridge Village. Thank you!

**Illuminating History: 2016 Gala**

Thank you to everyone who joined us in September for the Old Sturbridge Village 9th Annual Gala where we celebrated 70 Years of Illuminating History. We are pleased to announce that the event brought in over $200,000 in support of our nonprofit museum!

A special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Country Bank, to our Gala Committee Chairmen Ron and Kathy Vairo, and to all the Overseers and volunteers on our Gala Committee who made this event an amazing night.

Our 2016 Gala Presenting Sponsor:

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**Introducing the New Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bob Reeder**

Bob and Lorraine Reeder have been members of Old Sturbridge Village since the late 1980s and their children grew up with many fond memories of the Village – broom making, milking cows, candle making, farm chores, and baking. While living in New York, they would visit for weekends and stay at the Lodges. In fact, their generous gift in 2015 made the Lodges’ reopening a reality; they wanted all of our guests to be able to enjoy the fullest extent of the Village’s hospitality.

The Reeders, like other long-time members, love coming back to the Village to interact with the gifted interpreters and artisans, who “directly reach out to and engage visitors, making the Village’s campus come alive,” says Bob. And it’s not only the interpreters that captured the Reeder family’s interest – but also the extensive collections and exhibits and the full Village experience.

Bob encourages everyone to “visit the Village often, take advantage of the Village’s ever-changing programs, and create lasting memories as I have with my family.”

This past June, Bob was elected as the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Bob has enthusiastically stepped in to the Chairman’s role, and he is excited to lead the Village.

In celebration of the upcoming fall and winter season, our new Chairman and his wife have issued a challenge! As of the beginning of October through December 31, 2016, Bob and Lorraine will match all new and increased giving to the Annual Fund up to $100,000. Their challenge has already had a huge impact. Thank you to everyone who has supported the challenge!

Your new or increased gift will have twice the impact in support of our beloved museum and educational institution that has created so many memories for families across New England.

Join the Reeders in their pledge to support Old Sturbridge Village programs – and make a donation to the Chairman’s Challenge today. To make a gift go to www.osv.org/chairmans-challenge, or contact us at development@osv.org or 508-347-0294.

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Honoring Cokie Roberts: Ken Burns Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

Thank you to everyone who joined us in October as we honored Cokie Roberts, award-winning journalist and author, with the Ken Burns Lifetime Achievement Award. Initiated in 2009, this prestigious award is given to an individual who has made a significant impact on the arts through a project that is relevant to the history we work to preserve here at Old Sturbridge Village.

As a historical museum and community organization, we take great pride in recognizing those people who are leaders in their field and make forward strides in the arts and humanities. We want to extend our congratulations to Cokie for all her outstanding achievements as an author and advocate for the arts.

A special thanks to our event sponsor, Fallon Health, for generously supporting this evening of celebration.

(left) 2016 Ken Burns Award Winner Cokie Roberts pictured receiving an official citation with Massachusetts State Representative Todd Smola. (right) Fallon Health CEO Richard Burke and Mary Beth Burke with award winner Cokie Roberts. Photos by Bill Brett.

Fond Farewell to OSV’s Master Blacksmith

Several of our talented historic interpreters have been with the Village for many years, becoming iconic faces in our craft shops and homes that guests look forward to seeing every time they come to visit. Rob Lyon, master craftsman and lead blacksmith, has been one of those friendly faces since he started working at Old Sturbridge Village in 1972. Rob began in the Miner Grant store selling candy while he took private lessons from the former lead blacksmith Frank Grapes. Only a year later, the Village hired him as an interpreter.

This fall Rob announced his retirement after 44 years of employment at the Village. He has seen OSV from all different perspectives: the gift shop, the Mills, the Shoe Shop, and even participating as a musician in Christmas by Candlelight. In all the years he’s worked here there was never a day he didn’t look forward to coming into work. According to Rob the best part of working at OSV is the people – having such talented fellow staff and getting to interact every day with visitors from around the world.

On behalf of the Old Sturbridge Village staff, Board of Trustees, and community, we want to thank Rob for his incredible talent as our lead blacksmith and for the daily kindness and spirit he brought to the Village. We wish him all the best for the future.

Our costumed interpreters are the heart and soul of the Village, bringing history to life every day as they portray the everyday activities of 1830s New Englanders. We hope you get the chance to visit soon and see them in action throughout our historic homes and shops.

Shawn Vallee Art Director

Shawn Vallee, Art Director, has worked as part of the Village family since 2015. She is the spirited face behind the Village’s amazing graphic design and collaborates with the rest of the marketing team to create dynamic layouts. Next time you pick up a brochure, look at a sign, or see an OSV digital ad, know that you’re looking at Shawn’s handiwork!

Interests: As a transplant from Arizona, Shawn’s move to New England was eye-opening! While she’d always been interested in plants, she has found renewed interest in gardening, and has discovered a new palette of plant varieties. She sees plants as living sculpture and enjoys “co-creating with nature” in her garden design.

Shawn’s daily commute aids her interest in audio books; listening to inspiring and intriguing novels by local fiction writers from the local public library. In addition, Shawn practices yoga and enjoys inline skating, arts and crafts, sewing and most recently, kayaking.

Hidden Talents: Shawn has been tapped by the American Advertising Federation (“ADDY”) Awards to serve as a judge in 25 different cities across the country. She found the process of comparing advertising quality from entries across the country and from different industries inspiring and rewarding. “It gave me a new perspective to see how different designers were approaching challenges,” she notes.

Best Professional Experience: Development of advertising for The Sleepy Hollow Experience was both rewarding and exciting. Having beautiful photographs from BreeAnne Clowdus to work with enabled Shawn to design eye-catching ads, and it was very gratifying to see the groundswell of interest for the theatrical production.

Most Wanted Village Experience: Shawn would welcome the opportunity to serve as a costumed interpreter. She loves the idea of being transported in time to a different era, and to experience 19th-century life in a interactive way.

Proudest Career Accomplishment: Shawn’s experience in operating her own advertising and design company, and being recognized for her work by winning “Art Director of the Year” at the Phoenix “ADDYs.”

Wish for OSV: That the Village continues to have success with more immersive theatrical performances. She believes that the public response has been fantastic because it stirs people’s imagination and inspires a deeper interest in history.

2017 Calendar Of EVENTS

Because events are subject to change, please confirm dates before you visit at www.osv.org.

JANUARY
January 7 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 22 and 28 – 29
Midwinter Mischief

FEBRUARY
February 4 – 5, 11 – 12, 18 – 19, and 22 – 28
Midwinter Mischief
February 25
Winterfest and Sleigh Rally

MARCH
March 4 & 5, 12 & 13, 18 & 19 and 25 & 26
Maple Days
March 17
Homeschool Day

APRIL
April 8
Scout Day
April 15 – 23
Family Farm Fest
April 16
The Great Egg Hunt
April 17
Patriots’ Day

MAY
May 9
Homeschool Day
May 14
Mother’s Day
May 27 – 29
Wool Days

JUNE
June 9
Federalist Dinner
June 10 & 11
Transportation Festival
June 18
Father’s Day

JULY
July 1 – 4
Independence: 4th of July Beer Festival
July 23

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Scout Day
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April 16
The Great Egg Hunt
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1月7-8日、14-15日、21-22日和28-29日
Midwinter Mischief

二月
2月4-5日、11-12日、18-19日和22-28日
Midwinter Mischief
2月25日
Winterfest and Sleigh Rally

三月
3月4-5日、12-13日、18-19日和25-26日
Maple Days
3月17日
Homeschool Day

四月
4月8日
Scout Day
4月15-23日
Family Farm Fest
4月16日
The Great Egg Hunt
4月17日
Patriots’ Day

五月
5月9日
Homeschool Day
5月14日
Mother’s Day
5月27-29日
Wool Days

六月
6月9日
Federalist Dinner
6月10-11日
Transportation Festival
6月18日
Father’s Day

七月
7月1-4日
Independence: 4th of July Beer Festival
7月23日

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new shelves are usable in any of our kilns, both in the modern kilns located in the basement of the Shop as well as the reproduction brick “updraft bottle” kiln that is fired once a year. The refractory shelving will greatly improve the finished quality and allow our potters to fit more pots into each firing – and the Pottery Shop already produces around 10,000 mugs, pots, bean jars, and cooking vessels each year!

Tony also brought our pottery staff for a tour of the modern Norton Abrasives building and facilities to show them the kilns and firing processes. “A key part of our educational goals is tying historic trades to modern industries,” said Rhys Simmons, OSV’s Director of Interpretation. “Tony represents a link between historic crafts and modern day applications of those crafts.” The Village staff is certainly excited that a corporation like Saint-Gobain is interested in preserving the history of New England crafts, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.

We are so thankful to both Tony and Saint-Gobain for their generosity and investment in the historic trade that has such an impact on so many people. We hope to see you in the Pottery Shop soon!

This year Old Sturbridge Village fully embraced the spooky traditions of Halloween by hosting a fun trick-or-treat event for families. The day’s rain storm didn’t stop our trick-or-treaters as they enjoyed spooky stories at the Friends Meetinghouse and magic shows in the Center Meetinghouse, a toasty bonfire and carryall rides around the Common, and a Halloween costume parade led by the Headless Horseman from The Sleepy Hollow Experience.

A Village Trick-or-Treat was enjoyed by all – and we have to give a big ‘kudos’ to our amazing group of volunteers who made it such a memorable event! Volunteers staffed all the trick-or-treat stations around the Common, handing out treats in historic “all hallows eve” costumes covered in spider webs.

During regular museum hours, Volunteers regularly work alongside the Village’s interpretive staff in the historic homes, trade shops, and gardens, allowing a greater interpretive presence throughout the exhibits. However they really went above and beyond during this Halloween event – making sure that each and every child had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who participated in A Village Trick-or-Treat. You were spook-tacular!

The festive Halloween pumpkins decorating the Village common during our event were carved by a group of students from Spencer’s Knox Trail Middle School’s Peer Leader group. We are grateful for their creativity and carving skills!

A big Thank-You to Everson Distributing and Costco for donating the candy for this year’s trick-or-treat stops. They really brought smiles to everyone’s faces!

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