

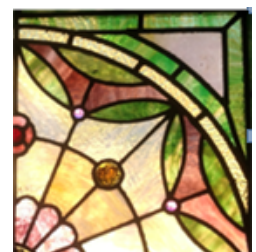
annual report

The Barnes Museum



A HISTORY OF TIME

85 N. Main Street, Southington
thebarnesmuseum.org
860-628-5426



our mission

The Mission of the Barnes Museum is to preserve Southington's history for future generations through careful preservation of the Bradley Barnes Homestead and its contents.

our vision

The Barnes Museum will educate, entertain and inspire a diverse audience by maintaining and providing access to the Bradley Barnes Homestead and its contents in keeping with the explicit wishes of benefactor Bradley Barnes. The Museum will encourage people to explore Southington's history through its collection of artifacts and documents.

board of directors

Mary Baker, *Chair*
Walter Grover, *Vice-Chair*
Mark Lajoie, *Secretary*
Terry Gomez-Lombardi, *Treasurer*

Johanna Furgalack
Joanne Kelleher
Fran Meade
Patricia Queen
Tina Riccio

museum staff

Kristi Sadowski, *Executive Director*
Bonnie Plourde, *Outreach & Preservation*



Museum Grounds

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Visits

Tours Given	206
Tour Attendees	669
Researchers	21
Events	25
Event Participants	2,648

Cover Photo: The Victorian Lady at Good Ole Summertime

executive summary



*Former Curator, Marie Secondo
Presenting at the Historical Society*

The Barnes Museum took off with new energy in July 2019. A focus was placed on raising awareness and bringing more individuals to the Museum. New and exciting events joined the Museum's traditional offerings.

Fall and Winter were busy seasons for the Museum. The two person staff relied heavily on the Friends of the Barnes Museum and a core group of

volunteers to assist in providing tours, and setting up the elaborate holiday decorations-setting the stage for a robust docent program to come.

For the first time ever, the Bradley and Barnes family diaries were placed on exhibit in September and were featured throughout the holiday season. This written documentation, which brings the homestead and artifacts to life, are key pieces of the Museum's collection.

In January, Marie Secondo, curator of the Barnes Museum for the past 16 years, announced her retirement in late February. Coupled with the beginnings of the COVID-19 pandemic and a hiring freeze, efforts to fill this position were placed on hold.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for the Museum to focus on social media outreach and grow its online following by continuing the trend of offering new and exciting virtual programs.

finances

Funding Sources

Operating Budget	\$ 93,569.33
Barnes Museum Trust	\$ 6,577.27

Revenue

Events	\$ 2,738.60
Donations	\$ 247.00
Library Passes	\$ 75.00
Tours	\$ 2,377.39
Gift Shop	\$ 189.00
Property Rental	\$ 100.00



events

The 18th Annual **Taste of Southington** was held in August. Unlike recent years, the weather was perfect for most of the event, and it was extremely well attended. The first floor of the Museum was showcased, Dave Zoni provided entertainment and 9 restaurants participated.

Marie Secondo presented **The Barnes Museum...A Unique Historical Treasure** to the Historical Society in September. This presentation featured oddities from the collection and focused on how the diaries, letters, receipts and other documents bring history to life.

In September, the Barnes Museum truly brought history to life with a **Living Museum** featuring 5 members of the Bradley and Barnes Families.

The **The Apple Harvest Festival** once again brought crowds to the Museum grounds. The Carousel was a popular attraction as was Pumpkin Decorating for little ones.

The **Antiques Appraisal Night** was once again held in October. 40 attendees brought 72 items.

31 families attended **Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus** in December. There were holiday raffle baskets and family portrait photo sessions with John Atashian.

White Christmas in the Community was once again a popular town wide event, with hundreds touring the Museum and the immaculate holiday decorations.

Tea Parties were held to celebrate the Harvest, Holidays, and Valentine's Day.

*Photos from top to bottom:
Taste of Southington, Living Museum, Pumpkin Decoration at the
Apple Harvest Festival, Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.*

covid-19

The Barnes Museum shut its doors in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Intent on bringing culture, entertainment, and normalcy to the community, a vibrant schedule of virtual programs was created.

Featuring the 1914 Steinway Player Piano, **Songs of the Steinway** was born. Each day, Monday through Friday, a new song was shared on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.

Wednesdays featured the popular **What is it Wednesday** program where interim curator, Bonnie Plourde, would go live on Facebook to talk about an element of Southington's history connected to the Bradley and Barnes families. Viewers had the opportunity to ask questions in real time. This program featured several town locations including Oak Hill Cemetery, Bradley Mountain Farm, the Historical Society, and Lake Compounce.

Partnerships were very important and a series of videos on how to create your own board games were made in between the Museum and Southington Public Library and shared with the Southington Y. These complimented an online Board Game Exhibit featuring games from the family.

Daily social media updates and new programming increased awareness of the Museum.



What is it Wednesday

In June the Museum opened to tours by appointment. A new online booking software was implemented. It allows for reminders to visitors and encourages reviews.

Programming adjusted to a new schedule of Songs on the Steinway on Monday and Friday, Trivia Tuesday relating to an object that is part of What is it Wednesday, and finally, reminders of the past with Throwback Thursday commemorating moments in the Museum's history.

Great virtual tours, information, and music. I am so enjoying this new discovery so close by - can't wait to actually visit. Thank you for all that you are doing and sharing with everyone.

Paula of Wallingford

Thank you for being a shining beacon during this time of challenge! Thank you Barnes Museum!

Bettina Stopford

