



THE LANDMARK

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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

bvhsri.org • 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike (Rte 246) • PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

Michael DiMucci Presents the Sensational 70's

On March 15, Michael DiMucci, tenor and pianist will present a concert of songs and their stories from America's past. This program features well-known melodies from the sensational 70s!

Come celebrate with the music that defined the decade from country to pop to soul to singer-songwriter pieces and more!

DiMucci studied piano with the late Chester Fruscione of Trenton, NJ, and continued his studies at the Westminster Conservatory of Music in Princeton, NJ, where he also studied pipe organ. He has played at Linden Place, Blithewold Mansion, the Dunes Club, and many other venues in RI. As a singer, he appren-



Michael DiMucci

ticed at Boehme Opera in Trenton, NJ for two seasons with Maestro Joseph Pucciatti, and studied voice with RI baritone, artistic director of Opera Providence, Rene de la Garza. He has performed throughout the New England area in large and small venues for concerts, private recitals, special events, and weddings, and

was a regular guest artist, singing lead tenor roles, at the University of Rhode Island's Opera Workshop. He has also performed in concerts and recitals for Opera Providence, the RI Philharmonic, and the annual concert series for the Town of Bristol. Because of his diverse musical background, he is at home singing Broadway/musical theatre and opera, as well as jazz and the American Songbook.

He has recorded two studio albums, "O Holy Night," a classical and secular Christmas album, and "Impossible Dream," which contains Broadway, classical crossover, and Italian selections, including the work of RI composer, Dr. Enrico Garzilli.

**3:00 pm,
March: 15, 2020
Northgate, BVHS
1873 Old Louisquisset
Pike, Lincoln, RI
Tickets: \$20**

His live recording, "Primavera: Michael DiMucci Live" is available for download and features several original compositions by DiMucci.

Michael DiMucci is co-owner of an Art, Music, and Beauty Studio, One Studio Smooch in Cranston with his wife, Jenny DiMucci.

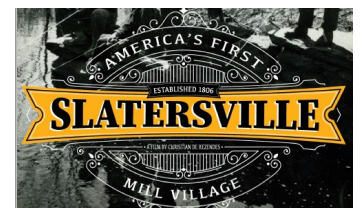
This concert is a fundraiser for BVHS. Tickets are available on BrownPaperTickets.com and at the door: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4530613

Ruth Slater Letter from BVHS Archives to be read in Slatersville: America's First Mill Village

A few years ago, Christian de Rezendes, the director and filmmaker of *Slatersville, America's First Mill Village* visited BVHS to look at some Slater family letters

in the BVHS archives with Pat Armitage, BVHS past president. On February 20th there will be a showing of selections from *Slatersville* at 6:30 pm. at Heritage Hall,

North Smithfield Heritage Association, 101 Greene Street, North Smithfield, and we hope to see the segment with the letter. Our interest was whetted



when Christian de Rezendes posted the following note on Facebook on January 15. He said, *(Continued on p. 2)*

Cemetery Conservation Workshop at BVHS



BVHS hosts Cemetery Conservation Workshop

BVHS is hosting a “Volunteers-in-Parks” Cemetery Conservation Skills Workshop offered by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Blackstone River National Historic Park on Wednesday, April 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The presenters will be Betty and Carlo Mencucci,

Greg Duhamel, and Johnelle Bergeron. Betty and Carlo Mencucci are members of the Association of Gravestone Studies and the Burrillville Historical Society. Greg Duhamel and Johnelle Bergeron have been leading the conservation efforts at the St. James/Bernon Cemetery in Woonsocket.

The Skills Workshop series is designed for vol-

unteers to learn a new skill, or sharpen skills they already have. This workshop will provide you with a better understanding of historic graveyards.

You must register for this free workshop with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Please contact **Suzanne Buchanan** no later than **April 2, 2020**. RSVP to volunteer@BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org or call 508-234-4242.

Rhode Island celebrates Historic Cemetery Restoration & Awareness Day on Saturday, April 11. To learn about volunteer activities, visit the events page at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org.

Slater Letter

(Continued from p. 1) “One of the many layers in the making of Slatersville is having actors read historic letters as the characters who wrote them. Since there is so much editing that needed to be done, we have only recently started to record these. This week in Belper, England, theatre director David Barton recorded actress Irene Button reading a letter written by Ruth Slater in 1834. The letter was about the death of her daughter Minerva in childbirth. This is one of the most powerful letters we discovered in our research. It had been saved in the Blackstone Valley Historical Society in Lincoln. What a stunning read it was. Amazing job... I cannot wait to bring life to her words in the film. Big thanks to Irene and David, to Patricia Buckley Armitage at BVHS and to Gail Denomme for transcribing.”

Gagne family seeks help for Cemetery

One opportunity to help out may be Lincoln Historical Cemetery 79, which is located between two houses on Great Road, near the Saylesville Friends Meeting House. Although nine or more people are said to be buried there, only three headstones are visible. The grandfather of the present owner of the property, William Gagne, built a

wall to support the graveyard decades ago. The land where the visible stones are located is higher than most of the Gagne’s property. However, the wall is now crumbling, and Gagne’s grandchildren Bill and Kristen have started a GoFundMe called “Save the Graves” www.gofundme.com/f/xe4mmj-save-the-graves to repair the wall their grandfather built, and to raise awareness for sav-

ing historic graveyards. Ken Postle raised the visible stones several years ago. The late Gagne, then 98 years old, gave him permission to try to recover some of the lost stones. Read more in the Valley Breeze article: www.valleybreeze.com/2020-02-12/cumberland-lincoln-area/lincoln-family-hopes-restore-burial-grounds



Cemetery 79 Sign on Great Road

Renovations Underway at North Gate



Renovated Bathroom

This tiny picture doesn't do them justice, but the renovation of the bathrooms at BVHS is now

complete! Many thanks to Gail Harris, John Houghton, and Jason Dione for managing this project.

Both bathrooms are now single use and gender-neutral, and one is handicapped-accessible. We can't wait until our next event to show them off.

On Saturday, February 15, members of BVHS, Don Coelho, Bob Ferri, Susan Houghton and Lori Melucci helped paint the wall opposite the stage in the upstairs hall at BVHS.

Here are Don and Bob painting. We hope to do the downstairs foyer soon. Email us if you'd like to help paint.



Don Coelho and Bob Ferri hard at work

The BVHS sign returns!

We all knew and loved the giant sign on the side of North Gate that said "Blackstone Valley Historical Society" to everyone driving by on Rt. 146. If you look at the BVHS Facebook page, you can see a picture of it. When the building was painted a few years ago, the sign was taken down. Once down, we saw that it was too damaged by years of weather to put back up. Because of its

enormous size, it would have been extremely expensive to have had it made by a professional sign maker. We've all missed it. But it will return.

Board member Don Coelho has been re-creating the sign and has recently finished it. We hope to put it up when the warmer weather comes. Thank you, Don!



"B" for Blackstone



Letters before painting



The completed sign



Don Coelho and his work.

Upcoming Events at North Gate

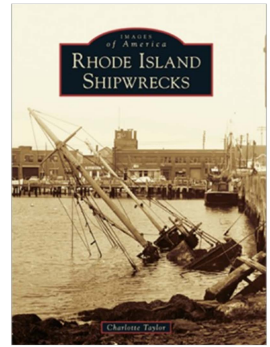
**Most events are free.
Everyone is welcome.
Donations are gratefully accepted.**

3:00 pm, Sunday, March 15: Michael DiMucci Concert: "The Sensational 70's."

Tickets \$20 at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4530613 and at the door.

6:30 –8:15 pm, Wednesday, April 8: Cemetery Conservation Skills, A Volunteers-in-Parks Skills Workshop offered by the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor and the Blackstone River National Historic Park at BVHS.

2:00 pm, Sunday, April 19: Archaeologist Charlotte Taylor from the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission will give a talk on "Maritime Misfortunes in the Ocean State." Taylor maintains an inventory of the state's shipwrecks.



RI Shipwrecks

Preserve Cumberland Initiative



Walcott House in Cumberland.
Tarp still covers roof damage where a tree fell on the roof in 2018.

The Town of Cumberland is in the process of creating the Preserve Cumberland Initiative, a new comprehensive approach to protecting the town's historic fabric. Planning and Community Director Jonathan Stevens presented a proposal at last November's Town Council meeting. The initiative would, as part of an overall plan still in development, establish financial incentives for restoration of old buildings considered significant.

One of the most prominent buildings that the town is looking to save is the former St. Patrick's Church on Broad Street. The town is hiring a consultant specializing in the adaptive use

of churches to create a report on the economic viability of redeveloping that site.

Stevens proposed that the Council enact local historic districts, where demolition, new construction, and exterior alterations would have to be approved by the Historic District Commission. Councilman Robert Shaw spoke about the "sense of place" found in North Smithfield's Union Village because of standards in that town.

The town is developing a list of significant endangered properties in Cumberland. The Walcott House on Nate Whipple Highway and the Diamond Hill General Store will probably head the list.

Last week, a major step took place when a resolution approved by the Town Council asked the General Assembly for enabling legislation allowing the town to craft ordinances establishing historic tax credits and instituting a demolition delay.

Bakery on Great Road Map



Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council will be doing a redesign of the Great Road Map,

"Three Centuries in Three Miles." Kathy Hartley from Hearthside reached out to all of the historic properties on Great Road to coordinate updates to the map. Jason Dionne, BVHS president, noticed that Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery was not on the old map, and has asked to have it added. We are looking forward to seeing the new map.

BVHS Executive Board

President: Jason Dionne

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Email: jjhdio70@gmail.com

Vice President: Lori Melucci

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