



Spring 2021

Dear Friends,

**This year the promise of spring feels especially welcome and meaningful.** As we ready the Bidwell House Museum for the new season ahead, we want to thank you and all of our friends and neighbors for their incredible friendship throughout the past year. While 2020 was a challenge, hindsight has given the Trustees and Staff fresh insight to consider all of the silver-linings of the last year. These include: many new visitors enjoying the 192 acre property; new outdoor self-guided tours and educational signage; the far away friends who were able to participate in online programs; and the Bidwell Lore email newsletter that has resonated with both Bidwell descendants and those interested in local history. We hope that you were able to visit the BHM property at some point during the past year, when our bucolic setting provided welcome respite from the strain of 2020.

Spring is the time of the Museum's annual membership drive and there is a feeling of optimism about what this season will bring. Postponed from 2020, the Museum is hoping to celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season this year and we are working to plan fun, safe events on the grounds and online. We will continue virtual programs into the summer and hope to transition to more in-person, outdoor programs later on, including Maker Days with local artisans, outdoor musical events and a re-enactment weekend in September. The Museum also hopes to re-open for limited in-person house tours by appointment when it is safe to do so.

The Bidwell House Museum is a small but vital organization in Monterey, illuminating the story of the early Berkshires. More recently this has included partnering with the Stockbridge–Munsee Community, as the Bidwell property is a part of their sacred homeland. With their guidance and encouragement, the Museum is honored to share the Mohican story. Our ability to do this work each year depends on the support of our members and friends, even more importantly after the upheaval of the last year.

**Please consider becoming a member in 2021.**

All members receive a season pass for house tours, free access to online talks, the BHM informative newsletter, and invitations to special events. Memberships at the \$125 level and above will also receive a membership to the North American Reciprocal Museum Association, which provides access to over 1000 museums throughout North America, Canada, and Mexico.

Your membership this year will help to ensure that the Museum remains a vibrant resource for history education, preservation and outdoor enjoyment in the Berkshires. We hope to share the Museum with you in person later this year, but in the meantime, our four miles of trails and 192 acres of woodland and fields are open for your exploration and enjoyment.

**Heartfelt thanks for your generosity, and participation in the Bidwell House Museum's success.** Please become a member online at: [bidwellhousemuseum.org/join/](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org/join/). We look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

Sincerely yours,

The Bidwell House Museum Board of Trustees