

# Mechanics Hall

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HALL?

Last week was slower at the Hall, but never uneventful! As a reminder, we will be closed on Memorial Day!

We have a wedding this coming Saturday and a graduation rehearsal early on Tuesday, but I hope everyone can really relax, recharge, and spend some time with loved ones on Memorial Day.

What a special opportunity to remember and honor those who gave their lives in service to our country and freedom. In the Hall, we honor General George Hull Ward (1826 - 1863), a Worcester-born military leader and local hero who joined the military at the age of twenty and quickly rose through the ranks. He lost a leg at the Battle of Ball's Bluff in 1861, but returned to Worcester to recruit and train soldiers. His patriotism lead him to later rejoin his regiment. Sadly, he was killed in action at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

### MEETINGS:

Meetings from last week that I thought might be of interest:

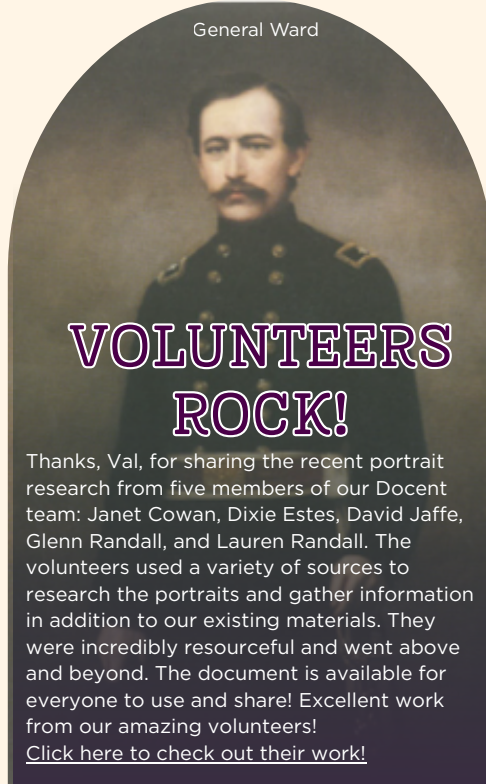
**Rubby Wuabu:** I had the pleasure of meeting with Rubby Wuabu who is the Policy & Cabinet Affairs Liason for Governor Maura Healey. She is also a graduate of South High School. We talked about engaging a group of stakeholders for feedback on Mechanics Hall.

**Property Committee:** Our Property Committee met last week and got a number of updates on everything going on in the building related to facilities, system upgrades, and general repairs. The committee includes 6 current and former board members as well as former Facilities Director, Bob Blair. They are a wonderful group of advisors, thought partners and experts in construction, building systems, and historic preservation.

**Bi-Weekly Group:** Every other week, I sit down with Amy, Chris, Graham, Jeff L., Maria, and Michael C. to talk through progress related to budget goals for the year and celebrate successes from recent projects or events. It's a chance for us to check in on our progress and with one another.

**GWCF Breakfast with Pete:** This annual breakfast with the head of Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Peter Dunn, is hosted by Women in Development of Central MA (where I serve as secretary of the board). The event included a panel on fundraising in three non-profit Worcester organizations.

**Membership & Development Committee:** This group of four board members help us brainstorm around fundraising. We are looking to add to this group- so please let me know if you would recommend someone in the community. They don't need to be a board member!



General Ward

## VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

Thanks, Val, for sharing the recent portrait research from five members of our Docent team: Janet Cowan, Dixie Estes, David Jaffe, Glenn Randall, and Lauren Randall. The volunteers used a variety of sources to research the portraits and gather information in addition to our existing materials. They were incredibly resourceful and went above and beyond. The document is available for everyone to use and share! Excellent work from our amazing volunteers!  
[Click here to check out their work!](#)

### OTHER:

**Funding:** The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded the Hall a Cultural Facilities Fund grant of \$81,400 to help replace the HVAC system in the Fuller Wing. Graham is currently working on a plan to move this project forward with contractors! [Click here to read the announcement.](#)

**Freight Elevator Update:** The Freight Elevator had a new scavenger pump installed to relieve some of the issues we've been experiencing lately.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Welcome to new event staff, **Ethan Delory and Joseph Vetter** who will be adding to our barback and security teams.

**May 21: Joe Ocasio's** Birthday!

### THURSDAY:

Club 321 featured House of Hamill, a Pennsylvania-based Celtic folk trio known for energetic performances, original songwriting, and fiery fiddle tunes. The group played to a full crowd! It was undoubtedly our best Club 321 of the season! I love that we have been able to simplified the set up to orient to the stage and added more tables this season. We also had an incredible new addition with Charcuterie by Cherise and brought back beer tastings this Spring!

The evening also featured visual artwork by Mari Saxon, a Russian-born conceptual photographer now based in the United States.



THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

### Poll:

**As we look forward to the summer, what are some projects we may want to focus on during this slower time?** All ideas are welcome! Thanks to those who recently shared ideas.

**Going away for Memorial Day Weekend?** Where are you headed?

I really would love to hear from folks!  
Send me an email with your reply!