

Rehoboth Antiquarian Society President's Report 2021

The past year has been an unusual one for the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society, as it has for individuals and institutions worldwide. At last year's Annual Meeting, we had only a very hazy notion of what was coming; now, we can feel a certain relief that we have not had cause to despair. Financially, we have remained solvent, paid our bills, and kept our staff employed, all very important. Although we held off on most capital expenses, we do have lovely new signs in front of both buildings, Goff Hall's steps have been repaired, and Rehoboth's Green Energy Committee brought several energy-saving improvements to the Hall. Both the Blanding Library and the Carpenter Museum are currently open again and masks have come to seem almost normal. Many exhibits, lectures, programs, and meetings have continued in a variety of remote formats. We found a silver lining in the fact that some of our physically distant members have been able to join in our programs.

Some things could not be done by computer. The 2020-2021 season of Arts in the Village concerts was cancelled, as was the 2020 Carpenter Museum Craft Show. The usual Blanding Library book sale was not held, but there is now an ongoing sale table in the Hall. We expect the concerts to return, although we are not sure when, and the future of the craft show is being considered. Anything that brings large numbers of people together remains in the future.

Looking back on the past year, many of us are conscious of missing human contact. We have taken advantage of new online possibilities, but we have not done things together in far too long. It is my hope that I will see many of our members in person in the coming months. I hope you will borrow books, tour the museum, attend our programs, and find your way of helping out. We all look forward to this.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca H. Smith, President