

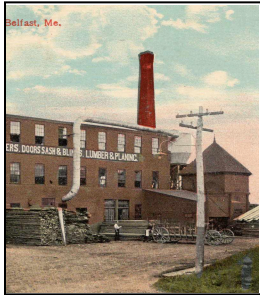
## 2026 Program Schedule BHS&M

The Belfast Historical Society presents talks of local historical interest on the 4th Monday of the month from April through October.

All presentations are at 7 pm in the Abbott Room at the Belfast Free Library and are open to the public. *Seating is limited to 75.*

These programs will be recorded and can be viewed on Belfast Community Television and on the museum website.

**FMI Visit: [BelfastMuseum.org](http://BelfastMuseum.org) or Call: (207) 338-9229**



**April 27: Made in Belfast** – Megan Pinette, BHS President

Megan Pinette, historical society president, will present an overview of the history of the many and varied items manufactured in Belfast, from axes to wagon wheels. Long before the mid-twentieth century, when Belfast was known as “Broiler Capital of the World,” there were factories throughout downtown producing shoes, men’s pants and vests, furniture, carriages, and bottled soda.



**May 18: Wheeling, Vamping, Fair Play and Resilience: The Story of the Belfast Center** – Presented by Barbara Ford-Latty, Architectural Historian

Barbara will discuss the history of The Belfast Center, why it was constructed and why at that location. Her research brings to light the story of this building and its history as a new shoe factory funded by a Belfast citizens’ committee in order to provide a new source of employment for Belfast shoe workers. In June 1949, the Waldo Shoe Company building was dedicated.



**June 22: Bits of Belfast History** – Sam Fuller, Collector  
Sam, of Stockton Springs, is a collector of Maine bottles, stoneware and exonomia, will present Belfast related items from his vast collection of medicinal bottles, fraternal badges and pins, novelties, and commercial advertising collectibles. Many of his collected Belfast bits have come from local flea markets. Sam’s extensive knowledge will both educate and entertain.



**July 27: The Times That Tried Men’s and Women’s Souls, Belfast During the American Revolution** – Megan Pinette, BHS President

Megan Pinette, Belfast Historical president, will present the bold stand taken by the town’s people in favor of Liberty. In 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was received, it met the hearty approval of the inhabitants of Belfast.

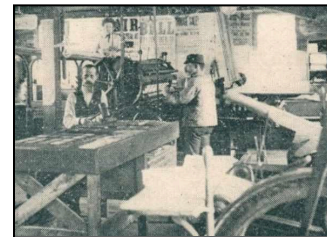


**August 24: History with Pizzazz** – Students from the Belfast Senior College course “History with Pizzazz” will share their research findings.

Explore Belfast’s past through Sanborn insurance maps, the rise and fall of the city’s broiler industry, and family stories stretching back centuries — including a harrowing tale from the French and Indian War, generations uncovered in Williamson’s Belfast

history, and diary entries from an early 19th-century ancestor. Also featured: Louise Nevelson’s difficult Rockland childhood and her rise to sculptural fame.

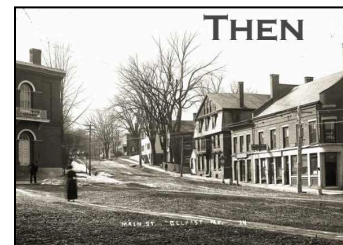
*Speakers: Deb Douthart, Barbara Ford-Latty, Rick Gatewood, Spencer Stephens, Hugh Townsend, and Bill Whitman.*



**September 28: Windows to Our Past, Two Hundred Years of Community Newspapers in Belfast** – Jan Eakins, Cultural Historian

Jan will present her research beginning with The Republican Journal which was Maine’s longest running newspaper when it ceased publication in 2024. It was the last of thirty-six papers that had kept Belfast residents abreast of shipping news, election

results, marriages, births and deaths, baseball scores, war, and thousands more happenings since 1820. Jan Eakins recently taught U.S. Press History, Mass Media and Society, and other courses at SUNY Plattsburgh.



**October 26: Belfast: Now & Then**

Kevin Johnson, Photo Archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum

Kevin Johnson, photo archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum will present new and old photographs of Belfast. “Rephotography” or “Repeat Photography” is a fascinating means of observing change over time. While change is an

inexorable force, photography has the ability to preserve a slice of time and space. Making direct comparisons of the past and present never gets old!