

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

Mail: PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791

email: harwhistsoc@gmail.com

Annual Appeal Under Way

Your generous support makes a difference!!

The 2019-2020 annual appeal has begun. Donation requests are scheduled to arrive in the mail after Labor Day. Receipts from past appeals have allowed the Historical Society to complete several projects. For example, this past year the barn museum was painted, and our museum software was upgraded. Repairs were also made to the schoolhouse windows and siding. Several interesting history-related programs were offered to the public and a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to a graduating senior from Lewis Mills High School. The Historical Society continues to rent office space on the second floor of the Jason Skinner House on Bentley Drive. This is where artifacts are catalogued, and records are maintained. In 2019 the Society contributed to the cost of a new, secure handrail at the Skinner House and paint for three buildings in the Americana exhibit at the Harwinton Fairgrounds.

Coming Oct 11: "Spirits of Harwinton"

On Friday night, October 11th, old spirits of Harwinton's history will come alive to tell their stories in the town's second oldest cemetery. The "Spirits of Harwinton" event is organized by Town Historian Roger Plaskett and co-sponsored by the Historical Society and the Hungerford Memorial Museum

If you attend you will meet transcontinental railroad magnate **Collis P. Huntington**; Harwinton's doctor **Andrew Abernethy**; patriot and Tory antagonist **Captain John Wilson**; the town's first centenarian, **Belinda Bartholomew**; early clock maker **Augustus Alfred** and others as they stop by historic South Cemetery for a chat.

This event is free to the public. A shuttle bus will run every 15 minutes from Town Hall where all visitors should park and obtain a bus ticket. **No parking will be allowed at the cemetery!** This night is intended to be fun and educational, not frightening. First bus departs at 5:30. Don't miss it!



SOUTH CEMETERY

OFFICERS – 2019

President: Bonnie Andrews
Vice President: Nancy Schnyer
Secretary: Elaine Sederquist
Treasurer: Harry Schuh

DIRECTORS

Term Ends 2019

Bruce Burnett
Shirley Gay

Term Ends 2020

Michael Orefice
Candace Jones-Pacholski

Term Ends 2021

Carol Kearns
David Ryan

**IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT**

CURATOR

Bonnie Andrews

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Dennis Andrews

OTHERS

(non-board positions)

HISTORIAN

Roger Plaskett

AUDITOR

Marilyn Mitchell

LEGAL COUNSEL

Patrick Wall

Email:

harwhistsoc@gmail.com

Harwinton Historical Society

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Harwinton, CT 06791

860-482-7978

LIST OF UPCOMING PROGRAMS

2019

Sunday, September 15 at 2 p.m. **“Bob Steele’s Century”** with Phil Steele. Town Hall Assembly Room.

(Details on page 4 of this newsletter)

Sunday, October 20 at 2 p.m. **“Trouble in the Land of Steady Habits: Constitution of 1818”** by Walt Woodward, CT State Historian. Town Hall Assembly Room.

Sunday, November 3 at 2 p.m. **“The American Saint Nick”** with author Peter Lion. Town Hall Assembly Room.

Wednesday, December 11 at 12:30. **Bus trip to Knights of Columbus Museum, New Haven CT to see Crèches of Europe & 24 decorated Christmas trees.**

\$7.50 fee for Transit Bus / museum admission free. Departure at 12:30 from Harwinton Library Overflow Lot.

(Details on page 3 of this newsletter)

2020

Sunday, January 19 at 2 p.m. **“Transcontinental Railroad”** with Hamish Lutris. Location TBA.

Sunday, February 9 at 1 p.m. **“Mary Lincoln, From Birth to Death”** with Carol Deleppo. Location TBA.

Sunday, March 8 at 2 **“The Year Without a Summer”** with Harwinton Historian Roger Plaskett at Harwinton Congregational Church.

Sunday, April 5 at 2 p.m. **“19th Amendment”** with Mariann Millard (First Ladies presenter!) Location TBA.

~ BUS TRIP TO NEW HAVEN ~
Knights of Columbus Museum Crèches of Europe Exhibit
Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Bus leaves at 12:30 p.m. and will return at 5

Departure Location: Harwinton Library Overflow Parking Lot

**** Sign-up and payment in advance is required – see below for details ****

The Knights of Columbus Museum presents its 15th annual Christmas Crèche exhibit featuring the holiday traditions of Europe. The Crèches of Europe exhibition features more than 80 crèches, icons and religious art representing 30 European countries. Crèches featured will include the colorful Polish szopki, German Krippenpyramide, and the return of the Italian Neopolitan. Pieces from the museum's own collection, as well as pieces on loan from other museums and private collections are a feast for the eyes!

The museum will also feature its annual Christmas Tree Festival. This popular display of two dozen Christmas Trees highlights the imagination and talent of Connecticut elementary schoolchildren who create handmade ornaments and trim in their classrooms, then travel to the museum to decorate a tree!

In addition, explore the 170-foot long Wall of History, a thematic and chronological presentation of the Knights of Columbus' origins and development including the K of C's relief work during World War I. Part II traces its history from the 1920s to the third millennium including the Heroes Fund project that provided immediate assistance to families of emergency responders who lost their lives in the rescue and recovery efforts following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Join us for a guided tour of the featured exhibit, Crèches of Europe; and time to explore the museum's permanent exhibits, enjoy 24 decorated trees, and visit the gift shop.

**** \$7.50 fee for transit bus (32 max-priority to HHS members)**

**Museum admission free. Sign up at HHS programs or
by mail to HHS, P.O. Box 84; Harwinton, CT 06791**

****Please include check (\$7.50 to Harwinton Historical Society); include your
name(s) and contact information. * weather may cancel ***

Don't miss
Bob Steele's Century
Sunday, September 15, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m.
Harwinton Town Hall Assembly Room



Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster Bob Steele was well known to millions in Southern New England as the morning voice of WTIC for half a century. His fans developed a unique attachment to him, almost as if he were a member of the family!

His son, Phil Steele, has published Bob Steele's Century, a collection of Bob's own archive- a kind of autobiography from Bob's own files of photos, articles about him, scripts he authored for his radio programs, his jokes, letters from listeners, cartoons he loved to draw, his diaries recording details of his personal life and the epic century into which he broadcast with his unique sense of humor. Phil will draw from this collection as he uses audio and visual images to transport us back to those wonderful mornings of Bob Steele.

Join us as Bob's son Phil stirs our memories as he shares the powerful legacy of Bob Steele's career and life.

****The program is free and open to the public. ****

**Phil has generously offered to present 50 free copies of Bob Steele's book, The Word for the Day, to attendees with priority given to HHS members.*



COMING SOON: THE HARWINTON FAIR

The annual Harwinton Fair is fast approaching. This is a major effort for the Historical Society made easier with just a little help from ALL members and friends. Here is what you can do:

- Volunteer to work a 2 or 3-hour shift in the Country Store or Shingle Mill. The fair is now open Friday nights (4 to 9 p.m.) as well as extended hours on Saturday (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and the regular hours on Sunday (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Working just one shift can have a big impact.
- Make phone calls to remind members that the fair is approaching
- Donate a hand-made item that can be offered for sale
- Donate extra vegetables or fruit from your garden
- Donate gently used collectables
- Make a batch of your favorite cookies, fudge, coffee cake, a pie or cupcakes to sell at the Country Store
- Help with the Take a Chance drawing by soliciting a gift certificate from a Harwinton merchant or promoting the drawing during the fair
- Assist with pricing and displaying items prior to the fair

If you can help in ANY way, no matter how small, please send a note to harwhistsoc@gmail.com, contact a member of the board of directors or call Nancy at 860-485-0035 or Bonnie at 860-482-7978. If you leave a message, please include how you can help and the best way and time to contact you.

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”

Quote by Helen Keller, an American educator, advocate for the blind and deaf and co-founder of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Stricken by an illness at the age of 2, Keller was left blind and deaf.



FRESH COAT OF PAINT!

Historical Society member Bob Lecko, left, puts the finishing touches of gray paint on the west peak of the barn museum. Bob helped Buildings Supervisor Dennis Andrews paint the high peaks of the barn. Bob and Mike Orefice also cleaned and puttied the windows at the one-room schoolhouse. Charles Kirchofer has replaced several boards on the schoolhouse. (Charlie built the barn and its addition and was instrumental in the relocation and renovation of the 1840s First District schoolhouse). Once the hinges on the barn have been painted, the project will be complete. The main barn was built in 1977 and was last painted in 2014.

A Message from the HHS President

Dear Members of the Harwinton Historical Society,

*In November, the Historical Society will once again meet to nominate and elect officers and directors to replace those directors and officers whose terms expire at the annual meeting in January. The date, time and location of that meeting will be announced soon. **

At the annual meeting In January members will hear reports from directors and officers whose terms expire at that meeting. The 2020 annual meeting will be on Jan. 26th at a time and location to be determined.

I am asking that as many members as possible serve on one committee for the coming year. Committees could include, but are not be limited to, Programs, Scholarship, Membership, Bylaws, Newsletter, Fair, Buildings, Annual Appeal, Tours and School Field Trips. Please attend the November meeting and offer to help in some way. Contact any member of the current Board of Directors with questions about volunteer opportunities.

We all need to work together if we want to keep this organization moving in a positive direction.

**Note: In 2009 the by-laws were changed to allow for an election prior to the end of the calendar year so that the new officers would have the month of December to plan for the new year and be well-prepared at the start of the next calendar year.*

Bonnie Andrews, President