

Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, September 2024

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President's Message

The hot summer is ending, and I hope everyone had some good times. For another season, our museum buildings at Martin Park were open for eight consecutive Sunday afternoons during July and August. Thank you to the members who volunteered to help us out. Even though the Schoolhouse is still closed, the contract between the roofing contractor and the Town has been signed and the work will be completed soon. The Selden Brewer House continues to be open on most Saturdays from 10 to 1 for visitors. Sadly, we have lost a long-time member and former president of the Historical Society, **Allan T. Driscoll**, the husband of our long time Secretary, Eileen. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Driscoll family.

On Saturday, September 14th, 2024 from 1 to 3

we will be having a get together at the Selden Brewer House for the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Historical Society in 1964.

We will have some liquid refreshments and a sheet cake for you to enjoy.

The Brewer House will be open for tours and we will also have some exhibits from our collections on display. Anyone with an interest in our history and supporting our work is welcome. We will also be starting a new scholarship fund to benefit local history students in honor of Allan Driscoll. Donations are welcome.

Dues Renewal Time

September 1st is right around the corner and now it is time for membership renewals. The Historical Society depends upon its' members' dues for monetary support being that we are a non- profit organization.

The new fiscal year begins in September 2024 and ends by August 31st 2025.

Payment of dues would be appreciated in the month of September. (see info on last page of this newsletter).

Some members have already paid ahead and for that we are extremely grateful! Thank You,

Judy Hillmann, Membership Chair
Historical Society of East Hartford

East Hartford Historical Society Annual Dinner meeting –

Wednesday, September 18th 6 – 8pm.

will be held at Saavi's Restaurant at 1555 Main Street in East Hartford

There will be a short business meeting that includes a vote on the election of officers and directors for the new fiscal year.

Menu: will be medallions of roast pork loin, eggplant Parmigiano, oven roasted potatoes, baked ziti, green beans, garden salad, bread and butter, fountain drinks and coffee/tea. The price per person is \$25. 00..

Dessert will be a surprise! You are welcome to take home leftovers, we ask that you bring your own containers. We will have a presentation to honor our 60th Anniversary; reflecting on history and memories of years gone by and of those that have meant so much to our organization.

Please send your check for reservations in by September 10th...(info on last page of this newsletter and let us know how many will be coming) It would most helpful if you renew your dues at the same time.

You and your membership are very important to us.

Looking forward to seeing everyone... good food, excellent ambiance, smiles, laughs and comradery!

Vice President: Steve Strange

NOMINATIONS

The following slate of Officers and Directors for the 2024 – 2025 Historical Society of East Hartford Executive Board have been nominated:

President:	Craig Johnson
Vice President:	Ruth Shapleigh-Brown
Secretary:	Eileen Driscoll
Treasurer:	Brian Caesar
Directors:	
4 Year:	Sue Kies
3 Year:	Alan Brewer
2 Year:	Jeffrey Cummings
1 Year:	John Presutti

The election will be held at the Annual Meeting. According to *Robert's Rules of Order*, there can be nominations from the floor. On the directors, we welcome Sue Kies to accept the 4-year term and John Presutti for the open 1-year term. Frank Forest has served his 4 years as a director, and we thank him for his service.

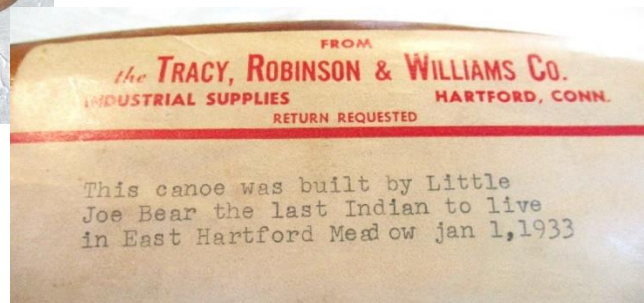
On the Officer positions, we want to thank Vice President Steve Strange for serving and the 4 years he served as past President of the Historical Society. Although he is still a loyal member Steve wants to pursue more interesting challenges and will no longer be an elected official. We are very grateful that Ruthie Brown has agreed to assume the vice presidency, vacating her one year remaining as a director. On replacing former Treasurer Diane Pansullo who has moved to Florida, we are very fortunate to have found member Brian Caesar who is willing to be our new Treasurer of the Historical Society. The above officers and directors are much appreciated for their continued loyalty in serving the Society.

The newsletter includes a renewal notice for Historical Society membership in the September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025 year and a required reservation form for the annual dinner. You can save some postage by returning both forms in one envelope with the payments. Craig Johnson, President
If you have any questions, please call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884 and leave a message.

New Donation to EHHS – Thanks to the Manchester Historical Society we now have this wonderful piece of history to add to our collection. Ruthie was very happy to receive it on their behalf. President Dennis Gleason of MHS did check ancestry.com he found that Joseph Bear died in Hartford April 15, 1943.



A hand carved wooden canoe with paddles – and a label on it that it was made by **Little Joe Bear in 1933, the last Indian who lived in East Hartford..**



Notes from past historian Ralph Secord; stating that they lived in the East of the river area and meet up with the white man in the 1630's. They were not a fierce tribe ending up asking for help from the white men from other surrounding tribes. They had encampments in the East Hartford area on the Podunk and Hockanum rivers. Their Royal Burying Ground was at the junction of Main St. and Ellington Rd and a favorite trail was that which now Silver Lane going into Manchester. Historians have estimated that there were up to 1,500 that had lived in this area. Much of the Burnham property in the north end was sold to the them by the Podunk's in the early 1700/s. By 1760 it was said that there were none left in the Hockanum Valley area.

This leads me to think that Joe Bear was perhaps not of that descent? If anyone has access to more information, we would certainly appreciate it. The canoe will be on display at the Brewer House on Sept. 14th. Ruthie Brown

Ruthie had put this old house photo in the Jan.2024 newsletter asking if anyone could identify it.
On the next page is a response from member Tom Hogan.



I believe the unidentified house in the January 2024 newsletter is 110 Main Street. It is still there, at the SE corner of Maple Street. Before Route 2 was built, the area was farmland. In 1948, Dr. Joseph Danyliw opened his medical practice in the building. Dr. Danyliw's office was in the rear of 110 Main St.

The photo looks like it was taken around the 1930s. According to the 1942 Hartford Directory, a John Kuzma and his wife Catherine lived at 110 Main Street. John was born in 1881. He died in 1951. I cannot be sure, however, that this are the Kuzmas.

During the 40s, the building may have been a rooming house as a Clifford Higgins also lived there in 1943. I also found a 1934 aerial photograph of the area showing how the spot looked before Route 2 was built. Until the late 1930s, 110 Main Street was the home of William R. Dunham, a tobacco farmer and Republican town councilman.
Tom Hogan

EHHS was host to a family get together in July.

On July 21st we had a wonderful visit by relations to the Dowd family (Mather and Williams also)
The reason for the request to use the Brewer House was that, Louise Mather, who kept all the Dowd collection in her attic, not allowing them to be thrown out for 60 years, had died in April at age 99.
Many of the family could not make it to the funeral, and wished to have a gathering in her honor.

Back in 2021, the family had donated this collection of items from the late 1800's, in four wonderful old wooden trunks, to the Historical Society of East Hartford. Ruthie has since been working with this amazing collection mostly that of Capt. Thomas Dowd; who was a wealthy tobacco farmer, and held many town offices; assessor, constable, town bookkeeper, Treasurer, Republican registrar of Electors and Legislature Representative in 1861. The collection contains so much, even clothing of the area, news clippings, lots Putnam Phalanx material, deeds, letters and so much more. He was involved in many political and veteran organizations of the time and married into the Williams family, eventually owning land in the Willow Brook area, and holding many great town events at Dowd's Grove.

Louise's daughter who grew up on Belden St and Linden St. and then after moved to the north end on Collimore Rd. and then moved to South Windsor in 1962. (cont. Next page)



We had a wonderful time; 32 family members showed up to visit. Kathy Woznica helped Ruthie provide space and showed exhibited for them some of the marvelous clothing pieces, Alan gave tours of Brewer House and Ruthie shared some highlights pieces of the collection with visitors.



Upcoming events for more details as we are closer to those dates, please check the facebook page.
PS. Our website is being worked on and we hope to have more on that issue in the next newsletter.

Antique Camera Exhibit:

For the month of October there will be an exhibit of about 30 plus old antique cameras at the Brewer House. Alan Brewer who gives the tours is displaying his antique collection for extra interest. Please do stop in and take advantage of this unique display.

The house is open for tours on Saturdays from 10am –1pm.



At the last board meeting Director Sue Kies have mentioned having another
Autumn Tea is Saturday, November 2, 2024
to be held at the Brewer House – as last year’s event was such a nice success...There will be more information in the next newsletter. As things are progressing, we will have a special edition newsletter going out for October. As a reminder for upcoming events and programs.

We appreciate your support through your membership dues!
As prices rise, we have decided to keep our dues low!
Membership Dues for the year- Sept 1-2024 - Aug 31 2025.

the Brewer House is open from 10am-1pm on most Saturdays.

Please mail your check to:
Historical Society of East Hartford
PO Box 380166,
East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166

OR

You can stop in and pay in person any Saturday from 10-1 at the Brewer House, 165 Main Street.

Please include the following information with your membership check:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ ADDRESS: _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ Zip Code _____

EMAIL: _____

For Newsletter mailing: Can we send by email? Y___ N___

or if you do not have email, we will send a hard copy - **Postal Delivery** Y___ N___

Membership annual dues are as follows please circle the one you choose:

\$20 Individual \$10 Student \$50 Patrons \$25 Family/one address \$250 Lifetime member

AMT ENCLOSED: _____

Reservation for Annual Dinner - Sept. 18, 2024 6-8pm.

at Saavi's Restaurant at 1555 Main Street in East Hartford

MEMBER NAME(S): _____

NUMBER OF DINNERS @ \$25 EACH _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

PHONE: _____

Thank You again for your support.