

# Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, May 2024



PO Box 380166,  
East Hartford, CT, 06138-

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*Our apologies for this newsletter being so late. The Next newsletter will be out the beginning of July with more details and information regarding upcoming programs and history subjects.*

## President's Message

For the Historical Society of East Hartford May 2024 Newsletter

Summer like weather is finally upon us! As mentioned in the last newsletter, the **Historical Society is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year having been founded in 1964.**

We plan to have a get together between 5 & 7 PM this Summer in Martin Park. Because the park is much too crowded on weekends, having it on a weekday evening will allow us to reserve the pavilion area.

All members are welcome to attend. We will have a sheet cake, some pizza, liquid refreshments, and you can bring your own food. There will be a short newsletter coming out later in July that will announce the actual day, as we are trying to avoid school football practice.

The Makens Bemont or Huguenot House at East Hartford's Martin Park will officially open for the 2024 season on **Connecticut Open House Day, Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4PM.**

I am desperately seeking members to volunteer that day and help welcome and assist visitors, making sure they sign the guest register and see the Burnham Blacksmith Shop and Goodwin School House.

On that day, the Selden Brewer House which is normally open on Saturdays, will also be open as usual for tours. Our regular Sunday afternoon openings from **1 to 4PM at Martin Park** will be as follows:  
**July 7<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>.**

On **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we will again participate in **Connecticut Trails Day**. For East Hartford History buffs, we'll be giving again the walk along the Connecticut River at Great River Park walking south across the Hockanum River pedestrian bridge, then walking a section of the East Coast Greenway.

**The time will be 2 to 4PM.** This weekend's weather forecast seems accommodating for an educational walk along two local rivers and kudos to the Conn. Forest & Park Association for having this statewide weekend event. Check out their website.

On **July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at the Selden Brewer House, we will be participating in a "**Sunset & Strings**" event with the Town of East Hartford Park & Rec Department for everyone's enjoyment.

This event to be held in the beautiful backyard garden will take place from **5 to 7:30PM** and the concert itself will be from **6 to 7PM**. Light liquid refreshments will be provided.

We also intend to offer some programs this Summer at the Library. These will be on weekday evenings between 6:30 and 8PM when the days are the longest and those who have difficulty driving at night can get home safely. The dates and a description of the programs will be forthcoming.

*Craig Johnson, President*

**The Historical Society is short staffed and could use some more volunteers to help keep things moving.**

We have recently lost two members; our treasurer has moved out of state (we might have a new volunteer for that office) and our newsletter person has passed and now I (Ruthie Brown) am happy and doing my best to keep the sharing going.

Also, at our last board meeting Alan Brewer was made Steward of the Brewer House collection.

Now that we doing Martin Park tours on Sundays – again we could use some extra helpers and greeters.

I would like to see the Blacksmith shop get some cleaning up and rearranging of collections done.

If anyone has an interest in helping with that project, please let us know.

I would like send out a special Thank you, to John Presutti, for responding to the Feb newsletter with the following comment:

***“Thank you so much for this newsletter. I truly appreciate the burnside history. I live on Elmer Street which was named for one of the trolly operators, as well as the burnside republicans as JOHN ELMER. I TRULY FEEL A PART OF THE HISTORY OF EAST HARTFORD”***

Ruthie Brown

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Genealogy Anyone??

Below is some information that I’ve pulled from a recent donation of a wonderful family genealogy binder regarding the Kirbell Family. It was to be left with East Hartford Genealogy Club? the CT Society of Genealogy on Maple Street no longer takes the personally collections. So presently we have it at the Historical Society. It is a wonderful collection and the detail is wonderful. If you have an interest please give us a call.

This binder appears to be mostly from Kirbell family of the 1900’s going back – Parmelee was major connection. Other names mentioned; Ely, Kennedy, Coton, Doddridge, Hills, Rierden, Bidwell, Forbes, Sumner, Boyce, Barlett, Cox, Campbell, gibbons, Ivers, Rowland, Seymour, and Whitehouse.

**Ancestors mentioned:**

John Pratt came to Hfd in 1632 ..

Some Gorgeous old photos of the 3 following:

Jane (Hills) Pratt wife of Adrial Ely Pratt (died 1895) . she was born August 28, 1831 and died Dec. 9. 1881

Mary Elizabeth Pratt Brewer born July 1, 1851 died Nov. 8, 1933 – daughter of Algernon and Delia Hills Pratt

She married Feb. 5, 1874 Everett Ellsworth Brewer who was born July 18, 1849 died Oct. 5, 1921

She was 1<sup>st</sup> cousin to Alice Maud Pratt Kirbell

There are old original (family copies) of deeds, wills, and other issues –

Parmelee – genealogy chart (sometimes used Palmerly) – goes back to 1635 when at age 20 he came to Guilford. also mentioned is Savage, Evarts and John Johnson.

Disassemble of timber Farm Barn that was at 25 Silver Lane –owned by Marion Kirbell and was relocated to 36 ferry Lane, in Simsbury to land owner Richard Davis. lots of photos of structure and house. (1990 – 91)

CT history online (2002) had J.F. Kirbell Harness Shop photo from 1908 - . photo was from CT His. Society

Charles L. Johnson – paperwork – an undertaker in 1900 – on the corner of Orchard and main St. EH .

Ruthie will meet up with you to share the contents if you are interested.

In honor of May being Mother's Day and now that the weather is warming up; here is some advice from

**From The Lady's Book and Magazine 1863**

If you get too much sun - Fresh milk (from a cow) mixed with oatmeal is very beneficial to a sunburnt complexion. Many use buttermilk with equal success. Sulphur mixed with fresh milk is also excellent for washing the skin.

Planting Flowers: TO Flower Bulbs at any season within Three Weeks.

Fill a flower pot half full of quick lime, then fill up with good earth, plant the bulb and keep the earth damp.

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Gaining new memberships is very important to any non- profit organization.

Our membership is growing but we certainly would love to increase it especially in our upcoming fiscal year.

If anyone would love to join and participate in our Historical Society of East Hartford the form is posted below.

The annual dues of any amount can help to increase our revenue.

Please consider becoming a member and helping us remain the active organization we have been since 1964.

Renewals of current memberships will begin again as of September 1, 2024.

Judy Hillmann, Membership Chairman  
Historical Society of East Hartford



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

**You can pay in person any Saturday from 10-1 at the Brewer House,  
165 Main Street. Or mail your check to:**

**Historical Society of East Hartford  
PO Box 380166, 860-568-8342  
East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166**

Any questions or inquiring to make a visit to research some information? - call us at 860-568-8342.  
This is the number at the Brewer House office- please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

**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 Postal Delivery Hard Copy 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:

