



# “THE CRIER”

Official Newsletter of the Waterford Historical Society, Inc., of Waterford, Connecticut  
Our Mission: To Collect, Protect, Preserve and Serve as Caretakers of Our Past, Present, and Future

Volume 52, Number 4  
Summer/Fall 2022  
Holly Anderson Camerota, Editor

## Bringing Waterford’s history to life with live, lively new programs

The easing of COVID restrictions, recent grants from the Town of Waterford and CT Humanities, and cosponsored events with the Waterford Public Library have allowed the Waterford Historical Society to offer new, enhanced programs and broaden its outreach to new audiences. Events are family-friendly, free and open to the public.

On May 12, nearly 80 people filled the Waterford Public Library meeting room to listen to Willard A. Reed III, local high school history teacher and author of “**The Granite Industry of Waterford**,” who told of this research into his grandfather’s work as a foreman in the local quarry industry. [Books are available for sale through the Society’s website.](#) June 18 brought a **Juneteenth Celebration: “La Amistad,”** with storyteller Adwoa, co-sponsored with the library.



The Society’s “Second Saturday” program “**Common Threads: Fiber Arts in 1850’s Waterford**” on July 9 brought a troupe of living historians, the “Dirty Blue Shirts,” pictured at left, and their museum-quality presentations to Jordan Green. [Learn more and see the video to relive the day.](#)

The weekend of August 6 & 7, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Art In Waterford: Past+Present+Future** featured marvelous paintings of “past artist” Impressionist Roger Dennis in Beebe-Phillips House, and in Stacy Barn, a greatly expanded juried art show of sculpture, quilling, paintings and photography by 32 local contemporary artists, all with a southeastern Connecticut theme. “Future artists,” The Williams School and Clark Lane Middle School students, displayed their works, curated by their art teachers, in Jordan Schoolhouse. On shady Jordan Green, visitors strolled and listened to live music by talented, varied local musicians, admired cool classic cars and observed artists painting *en plein air*. Children enjoyed crafts offered by the

Waterford Public Library. Drawings for artist Pat Kelbaugh’s painting “Lobsterman’s Day Off” and a blacksmith’s hand-forged poker were a popular attraction, and Society members were happy to make congratulatory phone calls to the winners at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Jumping Cow ice cream truck sold cool treats to complete the perfect summer event.

The Society thanks the many (100+) volunteers who gave their time and talents to help erect the tents, serve as Watching Eyes to oversee the valuable artwork on display, tidy the buildings, set up displays, and greet the public on a very steamy August weekend. And thanks – and kudos - to the wonderful artists whose works were selected for everyone to enjoy. [View the Art In Waterford 2022 slide show on the website.](#)

### Looking ahead . . .

**At 7 p.m., following the Society’s monthly members meeting at 5:30 p.m. on September 8 at the Library, Lisa Hall Brownell, author of the new historical novel “Gallows Road”** will share a slide presentation that highlights her research and local landmarks, including the area of today’s Gallows Lane, now part of Waterford. Combining fact and fiction, the book was inspired by events in colonial New London.

The Dirty Blue Shirts living historians will return to Jordan Green for [Second Saturday on September 10 with “Harvest to Hearth: Autumn in 1850’s Waterford”](#) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., demonstrating methods from the “olden days” to harvest and preserve nature’s bounty. Will the Society’s antique cider press be pressed into action? Come see!

The Society will be at the Town of Waterford's **Harvest Festival at Waterford Beach Park on October 8**. We'll be selling Waterford-history-related prints and books, hand-forged items from the blacksmith shop, and seeking new members. Our monthly members meeting follows on **October 13**, at 5:30 p.m. in Stacy Barn OR the Waterford Public Library meeting room. We'll send an email to confirm the location.

**An October 27** event, "**Local Jewish History**" with **Aaron Rosenberg**, begins with a 6:30 p.m. tour of Temple Emanuel, at 29 Dayton Road in Waterford, followed by a 7 p.m. talk and slide show, "History of the Jews of Southeastern Connecticut," with a focus on Waterford.



### **Waterford Historical Society dedicates its new sign on Jordan Green**

After months of painstaking work in the forge, and in collaboration with the Town, a beautiful, permanent hand-wrought sign designed and crafted by talented blacksmith Charlie Sedell and his assistants, now stands on Jordan Green, easily seen by passers-by and giving new prominence to the Waterford Historical Society's presence. A dedication ceremony was held on August 2, attended by Waterford's First Selectman Rob Brule, Ryan McNamara of Waterford Recreation & Parks, our Society's President Kristen Widham and board members, Charlie, stonemason Nick Cancelmo and a few of the blacksmiths who helped in its construction (and whose initials are carved into the upper section of the sign.) Special thanks to Waterford artist Alan Anderson for his design work on the sign's lettering and enhancing the original seal drawn by renowned local artist Nelson C. White in the 1960s. *Visit the [website to see a slide show of the construction process and dedication](#) and [view a video of Charlie's remarks](#) at the dedication ceremony.*

**The Ralph Madara Blacksmith Shop is a huge draw for visitors** of all ages who have discovered the blacksmith shop, where they see talented blacksmiths work the forge most Saturdays and midweek under the direction of Charlie Sedell. The shop produces original items like pokers, keychains, candlesticks, and more that are sold at the Waterford Farmers' Market. These and other custom pieces created upon request are a source of revenue for the Society. Please note: new safety procedures in 2022 require those working in the shop to be members of the Society, be at least 16 years of age, and to sign a waiver. *Email Charlie at [sideros@earthlink.net](mailto:sideros@earthlink.net) for custom orders, individual appointments or to be on the mailing list.*

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**Members: Please RE-member to renew!** We are a not-for-profit organization. And your commitment to the Waterford Historical Society through your membership helps us to carry out our mission: to collect, protect, preserve and serve as caretakers of our past, present and future. We're a small band of dedicated volunteers striving to maintain the Society's buildings and present interesting programs for enjoyment and education about Waterford's rich past. [Renew online with a credit card or PayPal](#) or use the enclosed form to send in a check.

**New members – we want YOU!** We're always hoping for new members to join us and bring their ideas and talents. Learn to be a guide, or bring your knowledge to restore and revive Town traditions and history. Are you crafty? Handy with tools? Know about farming? We have a barn full of interesting (mostly identified) objects that would love your attention! [Join online or use the enclosed form to send in a check.](#)

**The Society's new phone number** In case you need more information about programs – or you want to offer your talents and time to the Society – please note that we have a new phone number: 860-608-1904.

**Waterford Historical Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 117, Waterford, CT 06385**  
**Website: [waterfordcthistoricalsociety.org](http://waterfordcthistoricalsociety.org)**  
**Facebook: [facebook.com/WaterfordHistorySocietyCT/](https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordHistorySocietyCT/)**  
**Phone: (860) 608-1904**  
**Email: [waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com)**