



# “THE CRIER”

Official Newsletter of the Waterford Historical Society, Inc., of Waterford, Connecticut

**Our Mission: To Collect, Protect, Preserve as Caretakers of Our Past, Present, and Future**

Volume 52, Number 1  
Holly Anderson Camerota, Editor

Winter 2021

## “THE CRIER” redux! Online and by “Snail Mail” once again

Members of the Waterford Historical Society, Inc. of Waterford, Connecticut, may recall that through the years -- before email, texting, Facebook and a website -- a printed newsletter, “The Crier,” kept them informed of the Society’s activities. The last issue was produced in Winter of 2018. (This and some earlier issues have been posted on the Society’s website.)

While the website and Facebook do serve most members -- and have been *very* successful in attracting new members and making the Society’s activities known to the general public -- the Society wishes to ensure that ALL members are kept informed of past and upcoming events, historical notes and more, through the old-fashioned, tried-and-true method: a printed newsletter sent by “snail mail.”

With this “redux” Winter 2021 edition, the Society will resume sending “The Crier” to ALL members by mail. “The Crier” will also be posted on the Society’s website and Facebook pages. Eventually we would like to minimize postal expenses by sending “The Crier” only to members unable to receive it via the internet. We hope you enjoy receiving it and welcome your feedback.

## Pandemic challenges programming, but it continues.

As with many organizations, the Waterford Historical Society has had to cancel or postpone some programs, lectures and member meetings due to the pandemic. However, some board meetings and member meetings are being held virtually using computers and “Zoom.” Planning continues with hopes that 2021 will resume docent training, historical tours and other events. If you do not have access to the website or Facebook, please contact the Society at 860-398-7529 for updates or information on the events noted on our revised 2021 calendar included herewith.

## The blacksmith shop near Stacy Barn forges ahead

Even during the winter months, a stalwart crew of talented blacksmiths works our forge under the direction of Charlie Sedell. They produce original metal items such as keychains, candlesticks, herb dryers, and even “bacon flippers,” which sold like hotcakes during Art in Waterford 2020! The smithies sometimes even create custom pieces. Access to the smithy is limited during the pandemic. Email Charlie at [sideros@earthlink.net](mailto:sideros@earthlink.net) for custom orders or individual appointments.



## Wreath-making workshops raise holiday spirits

In November, the Thames River Garden Club and Waterford Historical Society members joined to offer two wreath-making workshops. Held in the Stacy Barn/Miner Education Center at a modest fee, community residents and members alike enjoyed creating original wreaths surrounded by our wonderful antique barn atmosphere. Workshops were limited to seven participants at a time, social distancing was observed, and all took home lovely greenery to raise holiday spirits.

## Decorating Jordan Green for the holidays

Our members, Thames River Garden Club and Rotary Club members coordinated efforts to decorate Jordan Green in December. Greenery and wreaths roped the split rail fence, behind which stood a menorah, a decorated Christmas tree, Santa, a sleigh and reindeer to greet and cheer those passing this busy intersection of Routes 213 and 156 in Waterford. Thank you to all who lent a hand!

### **The success of “Art in Waterford” in 2019 and 2020**

The brainchild of President Kristen Widham, the inaugural “Art in Waterford: Past + Present + Future” took place during a rainy, cold weekend in late April 2019. Despite the chilly weather, visitors viewed artwork on display in the Beebe-Phillips House, Jordan Schoolhouse and Stacy Barn. Docents and volunteers serving as “Watching Eyes” cared for the Society’s belongings and the exhibits of paintings and sculptures. Buoyed by this initial success, the Society dove into plans for a second Art in Waterford in 2020 in warmer weather.

So, despite the pandemic, the 2020 “Art in Waterford: Past + Present + Future” was held on a perfectly lovely August weekend during which safety protocols were strictly enforced with the help of many volunteers and in collaboration with the Town of Waterford. The widely publicized and wildly successful event brought hundreds of visitors hungry for cultural activities to Jordan Green to enjoy touring the Town’s historical buildings, view the art of past, present and future artists, chat with artists, stroll the grounds to admire classic and antique cars, sit in lawn chairs to hear live music by local musicians, or trudge up the little hill to watch our blacksmiths working the forge. This fabulous event resulted in attracting many new members who were no doubt impressed by the vitality and richness of the experience. Visitors could buy a raffle ticket for the chance to win an original oil painting by Pat Kelbaugh, acquire hand-forged items from the blacksmith’s shop, purchase sketch books, notecards and even artwork selected for the “Present” exhibit --- all raising much needed funds for the Society.

The Art in Waterford 2021 committee is already hard at work planning this year’s event, scheduled for August 14 + 15. The “Call for Artists” application form and instructions can be found on Facebook, the website and by contacting our Society by phone or email. Two highly regarded members of the arts community in southeastern Connecticut will judge submissions this spring for inclusion in this year’s event. Local secondary schools will be alerting promising young artists on how they may create art for the “Future” exhibit. Docent training is planned for May 8th, so if you have interest in learning more about our buildings, please contact our Society via phone or email.



### **The Society is attracting new members, but we hope you’ll stay active, too!**

During “normal” times, donations, lectures, events and workshops help to sustain us. While news of the Society’s activities is posted regularly on its Facebook page and website and has attracted some new members, the Society truly relies on its current members for support. Many of you still renew by mail. Need a form? Want to renew? Don’t let *your* membership lapse! Call or write us. Our fiscal membership year runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. It’s now possible to join or renew one’s membership on the website easily with the online payment method PayPal.

### **The Waterford Historical Society gives thanks**

A Thanksgiving solicitation letter sent to members from President Kristen Widham resulted in several generous donations from our members. The Society was reimbursed by a grant from the Town of Waterford for certain expenses. The Community Foundation issued a special grant related to financial stress during the pandemic to many local cultural organizations, including our Society. We thank all of you!

### **A new sign on Jordan Green**

Many thanks to talented sign maker and member Chris Collett, who created and installed the handsome new sign for the Waterford Historical Society. It stands proudly on Jordan Green and is visible to all who pass.

**Waterford Historical Society, Inc.**  
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