

THE CRIER

OF THE WATERFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. BOX 117 WATERFORD, CONNECTICUT 06385

Volume 56, Number 2 Summer/Fall 2024 Holly Anderson Camerota, Editor



Fine weather brought many new visitors from the region and out of state to Jordan Green this spring to tour our historic buildings and learn about Waterford's history. We loved engaging with them. So, to our members: please visit more often, introduce yourselves and let us give YOU a special tour!

May 13: "Common Threads" with the Dirty Blue Shirts living historians. Lots of visitors came by on a beautiful May day to Jordan Green. The living historians, the Dirty Blue Shirts, demonstrated quilting, knitting, needlework, ropemaking and offered a fine display of Waterford's maritime history. We enjoyed meeting new visitors who confessed they had driven by many times but never stopped, and were so glad they did. (Us, too!)



May 20, 22: Jordan Green field trips for 3rd and 5th-grade Waterford elementary students

For the second year, the Waterford Historical Society welcomed students, teachers and chaperones on two sunny May mornings to tour nine locations on Jordan Green to experience what life was like "way back when." Society members and living historians demonstrated rope making, hearth cooking, blacksmithing, food preserving, and herb gardening. Students were quizzed in the one-room schoolhouse by "Miss Etter," who was dressed in full period attire. They were shown farming implements in Stacy Barn harkening back to when Waterford boasted more than 100 dairy farms. A "hot spot" holding the students' attention was the blacksmith shop, and then the heirloom apple orchards where they discovered the outhouse behind Beebe-Phillips House!



View a slide show of the field trips

<https://www.waterfordcthistoricalsociety.org/field-trips-2024.html>

As a follow-up, teachers were asked to have 3rd graders draw a picture of what impressed them most that day, and 5th graders to write a short essay on their experience.. Society board members' difficult deliberations yielded the winners! President Kristen Widham surprised 3rd-grade Oswegatchie student Honesty Castro and 5th-grade Great Neck Elementary School student Sophie Anglim in their classrooms with a "special award" citation, a hand-crafted horseshoe hanging hook made by the blacksmiths, and a one-year household Society membership for their families.

Membership Renewal for 2025: Where did 2023-24 go?

The Waterford Historical Society reminds members that the membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. So that means for many members, it is time to renew. We prefer that you fill out and send in a new membership form (download it here) through the mail with your check to: P.O. Box 117, Waterford, CT 06385. This way, you can update your email or mailing address or telephone number so we don't lose track of you and can keep you informed of our events and good news.

OR you can pay through the website with PayPal, VENMO or a credit card. The form also allows you to update your contact information. Visit this website page here:

<https://www.waterfordcthistoricalsociety.org/membership-.html>

Either way you choose, please remain a member. We appreciate you, and hope to see you at some (or all) of the following events, especially the **Annual Meeting on July 13**. And please identify yourself as a member when you arrive!



Lancer Pride! Society presents Academic Awards to three WHS seniors

Through the generosity of one of its members, the Society presented \$1000 academic awards to three Waterford High School seniors for scholastic achievement and community involvement and who intend to major in history or a related area in their college careers. Society members (and Class of 1966 Waterford High School classmates!) Anthony Cascio, benefactor and member of the Ways & Means Committee, and Holly Anderson Camerota, Publicity Chair, presented the awards at the high school's June

4th senior class awards ceremony. It was a wonderful opportunity to visit their alma mater, share their Lancer pride and recognize recipients Alexa Collins, Rebecca Roarke and Payton Smith.

COMING EVENTS - Mark your calendars!

Saturday, July 13 - "Second Saturday" -Tours 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Followed by the Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon - from 12 to 2 p.m.
Jordan Park House on Jordan Green

Members will gather to hear Board members' annual reports and reflect upon the previous year's successes and future plans. Members are asked to contribute a dish to share.

Saturday, August 10 - "Second Saturday" - Waterford Town Parade from 10-10:30 a.m.

After the parade 'til 1 p.m. Tours of historic buildings on Jordan Green.

Monday, September 9 - Panel Discussion: "Working at Harkness"- 6:30 p.m.

A collaboration with the Friends of Harkness at the Eolia mansion at Harkness Memorial State Park. A look back on the history of Harkness employees, descendants, acquaintances, and happenings at the estate. If you personally have information about Harkness employees, please send your information to our email address: waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Saturday, September 14 - "Second Saturday" -"Summer at Sea" - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

With the Dirty Blue Shirts historians collective.

Tours of our historic buildings on Jordan Green, plus other activities.

Friday, October 25, Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27, 2024

The 6th annual ART IN WATERFORD: Past+Present+Future

At the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Rose Barn

The Waterford Historical Society will hold its 6th annual Art In Waterford event at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, October 25-27, featuring a three-day juried art show and a fundraising piano concert on Saturday afternoon. The Society is expanding its perspective of art in 2024 to feature music, recognizing a famous composer from Waterford's past, Edward A. MacDowell. MacDowell was married to Marian Nevins, whose family owned large tracts of land east of Jordan Village. In the middle of the last century, her family's bequest of land and buildings included Jordan Green and the weathered Nevins cottage located next to the Waterford Public Library. Recently a new not-for-profit organization was formed to restore that cottage.

A fundraising piano concert featuring works by Edward A. MacDowell in the Rose Barn will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, October 26. Profits will benefit both the Friends of Nevins Cottage and the Waterford Historical Society, since our organization is thrilled that the Nevins cottage soon will receive much necessary attention.

Like last year, the juried art show and student art show will be featured on the beautiful balcony of the Rufus and Margo Rose Theater Barn at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. Public viewing will occur from late morning through mid-afternoon on Friday, October 25, Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27. **Deadline for the Art In Waterford "Call for Artists" August 1. Get information here: <https://www.waterfordcthistoricalsociety.org/2024-call-for-artists.html>**

Endowment Fund update

The Waterford Historical Society is about halfway to its goal of having \$200,000 in its endowment fund. We absolutely need the remaining \$100,000 in order to be confident that we can meet all fixed annual costs for our Jordan Green buildings. Please contact us for any information you need in order to help us reach this goal. We can accept stock and financial investment instruments directly through the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. Email waterfordcthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

We hope to share luncheon with you on July 13th!



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

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