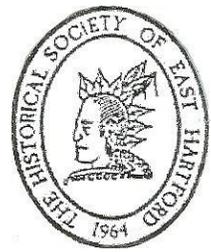


Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, January 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I pray that all Historical Society members and their families had a joyous Holiday Season. We look ahead to 2018 with optimism and hope. You have our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year. Please stay safe and warm from these bone-chilling, below freezing temperatures. Last month we hosted our second holiday-themed meet and greet at the Selden Brewer House. We were grateful to everyone who visited to see our Christmas tree, nibble at the tasty light refreshments and view some of our displayed collections. A special thanks is bestowed upon all of our members who helped plan and set-up for the event. The Historical Society is also very saddened by the passing of long-time member Irene Cone.

As I announced at the November 2017 meeting held at the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse, the Historical Society was successful on its grant application submission with the SBM Charitable Foundation. The \$5,000 grant amount will be added to individual donations received and proceeds from fund raisers to cover one half the cost of the roof replacement at the Huguenot House. To cover the other half, a letter of inquiry was submitted to the 1772 Foundation asking for a full application on a 1:1 matching grant in the amount of \$7,500. If we are approved to receive the full application, it will be due on March 1, 2018. If everything goes well, the roof replacement can happen in the spring.

I've obtained written estimates from three qualified contractors who could do the work. One of the contractors is Steve Bielitz of the Glastonbury Restoration Company. I've been following recent historic preservation efforts by Steve and he's managed to save two of our town's older homes from demolition. The first is the 1740 Hills House located on Goodwin College property at High Street. The second is the old Caleb Goodwin house located on Phelps Place. This old house is mentioned in Joseph O. Goodwin's 1879 book on East Hartford as then being one of the oldest houses in town and moved three times to its present location. Steve gave me a tour of the house that he dates to the 1690's or very early 1700's. The historic preservation process will involve documenting and dismantling these houses as they can't remain at their present sites.

We want you to add to your calendar a rare daytime program the Historical Society is presenting at the East Hartford Public Library on Saturday, March 10th from 1 to 3 pm. This free program will be a shared event with "Support our Survivors of Iwo Jima" and will be a lecture and slide show presentation by Marianne Mihalyo and Gary Roy who are co-founders of that volunteer organization. We will offer light refreshments and admission is by donation only. We will talk more about the program at our January 17th regular meeting at the Library. I hope to see most of you on that date. Stay warm everyone!

Craig Johnson, President

JANUARY – LOCAL AUTHOR MARTY PODSKOCH WILL TALK ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK CONNECTICUT CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CAMPS

On January 17, 2018 beginning at 7:30pm, local author and historian Marty Podskoch will give a Power Point presentation on his new book, Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memories and Legacy at the Raymond Library, 740 Main Street, in Rooms 2A/2B on the lower level. These two rooms have a dividing wall that collapses to expand the facility.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began on March 31, 1933 under President Roosevelt's "New Deal" to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Depression. The US Army supervised the camps which had approx. 200 men each. The first year 13 camps were set up in these Connecticut towns' state parks & forests: West Cornwall, Housatonic Meadows; Niantic, Military Reservation; Eastford, Natchaug; Haddam, Cockaponset; Union, Nipmuck; New Fairfield, Squantz Pond; Cobalt, Meshomasic; Voluntown, Pachaug; Thomaston, Black Rock; East Hartland, Tunxis; Clinton, Cockaponset; West Goshen, Mohawk; and Torrington, Paugnut (Burr Pond). The Army Government Dock in New London was the supply depot for all the CT camps.

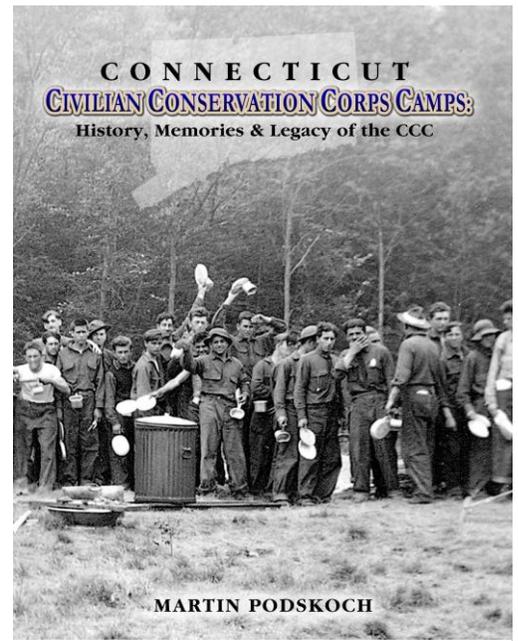
In the following years these eight camps were added: Barkhamsted, American Legion State Forest; East Hampton, Salmon River; Danbury, Wooster Mountain; Stafford Springs, Shenipsit; Portland, Meshomasic; Windsor (Poquonock), Experiment Station Land; Kent, Macedonia Brook, and Madison, Cockaponset.

Men 18 - 25 (with fathers on relief) enrolled for 6 months, worked a 40-hour week for \$30/mo. The government sent \$25 a month home and the boys received \$5 spending money. The boys got good food, uniforms, and medical care. At first they lived in tents; later they lived in wooden buildings. Workers built trails, roads, campsites, dams, stocked fish, built & maintained fire towers, observer's cabins & telephone lines, fought fires, & planted millions of trees. The CCC disbanded in 1942 due to the need for men in WW II.

After the presentation Marty Podskoch will have his new CT CCC book available for sale and signing and also his seven books on the Catskills & Adirondack Mountains.

A short business meeting beginning at 7:00 pm will precede the program, followed by refreshments. The meeting and the presentation are free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Bette Daraskevich, Vice-President/Programs



Cover of Marty Podskoch's book.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY IRENE CONE REMEMBRANCE

The Historical Society lost a long time member, supporter, and past President, when Irene Cone passed away on November 7, 2017. She was a member of this organization for over 40 years, and although she had not been recently active, her contributions to HSEH and the town of East Hartford are very easily called a Legacy. She will be most remembered for her work on Cable Access Channel 26, now known as Channel 5. She produced and directed countless programs viewed on our television sets. Recording history was one of her favorite things to do. Back in the early 80's she was one of the members of the Historical Society's "Committee to Save Maxine" - Maxine being the town's oldest fire engine which is now permanently housed at a mini-museum located next to Fire Station 6 on Forbes Street.

She, and the late Marlene Gallo, helped to spear head the saving of the Blacksmith Shop which is now part of our museums at Martin Park.

Speaking personally about Irene, and having been one of the people she would call on to videotape events around East Hartford, Irene was someone who was a permanent fixture in town, and in my heart, and when I heard she had died, I was shocked, even though I had been to her home numerous times and knew that her bed had been set up in her living room.

Irene made a big impact on East Hartford and it is ironic that she died on Election Day, as that was the biggest day for which she would call on volunteers to "get the numbers" to call into channel 5, so that the citizens of East Hartford could get the results of the election as soon as they were available. She was a woman small in stature and larger than life, with a tenaciousness and a caring that I will long remember and never forget. Her legacy in town will continue to positively impact East Hartford for a long time to come.

Eileen Driscoll, Secretary

STARTING THE NEW YEAR ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



Real Estate Special
Prime lofty abodes –
Dog free landscape –
With view of 5
well stocked bird feeders

Fairly private $\frac{1}{4}$ acre with 20 to 30 foot Hemlock trees... (Some branches still green)

Only two Nests have been taken – plenty already trimmed branches on the ground, tipped off and ready to go for the new neighbors.

Fenced off border helps to slow down neighborhood cat traffic, property owners also been known to put bread and goodies out on porch feeding area - (this means entertaining the inside cats but considering the food is free it's a benefit that you can't do without) – Inside cats are curious but no threat.

For maximum entertainment run up to slider windows and just stand there looking in... makes those indoor cats go crazy!

For more information and rates contact the
Wells Street Gray Squirrel condominium association –
Space available now but expect to be full by spring.



This is the
third time
this fall
I've swept up
a pile like this!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW
YEAR !

Historical Society of East Hartford

Mail: PO Box 380166, E Hartford, CT, 06138-0166

Phone: 860-528-0716

Email: hseh@hseh.org, webmaster@hseh.org

Web site: <http://www.hseh.org>

Membership: 860-290-1869, hseh@hseh.org
indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

Deadline Mar Newsletter – Feb 28, 2018

Clipart: https://www.clipartlogo.com/image/civilian-conservation-corps_128733.html



January Program

Date: Wed, Jan 17, 2018

Program: CT Civilian Conservation Corps with
Marty Podskoch

Where: Raymond Library,
740 Main Street, E Htfd

Time: 7:00pm

Fee: No cost

Info: 860-568-5188
