

# *Historical Society of East Hartford*

*Newsletter, May 2019*



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It is with profound joy and pride that I can announce the Makens Bemont House aka Huguenot House roof replacement has been completed. The work took three days, one to remove the old roof and two plus part of another day to nail on the new cedar roof shingles. It took almost three years to accomplish with generous donations, fundraisers and some much-appreciated grants. Thank you again to everyone who made it happen.

Looking ahead, Steve Strange was able to book an interesting program with an East Hartford connection for our May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as you can tell from his article. Please try to attend if possible. We normally do not have programming scheduled in July, but this year we have decided to co-sponsor a program with the Raymond Library on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm. The program will be called *Connecticut Rock 'N' Roll: A History* based on the book by author Tony Renzoni. Tony will be showing video clips and talking about past greats such as the Rockville Rocket, Gene Pitney. The program is free and I encourage you to attend this co-promotion.

We will again be involved in two state-wide events next month in June. Please note the following dates and times:

- For the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's 2019 Trails Day weekend, the Historical Society will host a new educational walk on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The tour will leave from the Great River Park concert area and we'll walk along the Connecticut River, then take the Meadow Hill trail of the Hockanum River Linear Park network to Main Street. Rain cancels and we hope the flood waters dry-up. Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and I will be co-leaders of this walk.
- We will again participate in Connecticut Open House Day. This year the date falls on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 and 4:00 pm at Martin Park. All three of our museum buildings will be open and we should expect to have many visitors. It's our only museum opening in June but it is always our busiest.

During the summer, we plan to have the Martin Park museum buildings open for tours during July and August Sunday afternoons as usual. A volunteer / helper sign-up sheet will be available at our May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please check your calendars beforehand so that you can select a date or two on the sign-up sheets that evening.

The Historical Society is also now in the process of updating its PURPOSE, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS and a committee has been formed. More on this will be announced in a future newsletter.

*Craig Johnson, President*

**MEMBERS & FRIENDS ..! SAVE THE DATE ... May 15, 7:00 pm..**

**For the *May Program* of the Historical Society of East Hartford**

Talk by Gary Knoble on Artist, Mrs Jessie S.G. Preston,  
Founding member of the 1929  
Society of Women Painters and Sculptors

Gary Knoble, noted Connecticut art historian, will give a presentation on Jessie S. Goodwin Preston (1879-1973), famous Connecticut woman artist from East Hartford. Mr. Noble will be assisted by Nancy Witcher, past president of Connecticut Women Artists. **The presentation will take place on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 pm at the East Hartford Public Library (Raymond Library) on Main Street.**

Ms. Goodwin Preston, was one of the founding members of the Connecticut Society of Women Painters which later became the organization known today as Connecticut Women Artists.

The event is free, and area art leagues are encouraged to attend. Learn about Ms. Goodwin Preston, her paintings, and her contributions to the 20th century Connecticut art scene.

Thank you,

*Steven Strange, Vice-president, HSEH*

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## **EH NEWS – GOODWIN POEM ... FROM A MOTHER<sup>1</sup>**

Here's a paragraph to share from a five-page poem that we found in the Goodwin Collection. We don't know yet which Mrs. Goodwin wrote it, however there is a reference date of Dec. 1860 in the introduction. Clearly, it's written by a Mom telling the story of her family.

We chose to share a paragraph that made us think of a proud Mom, in time for this edition.

*As time rolled on the children grew, the eldest went to school  
To keep them somewhat within bounds and learn to go by rules  
One day a daughter was announced, which made the number three  
And mother looked with pride and said, well this one we'll name after me  
So Laura learnt to do things well, as it proved in later life  
For she of all the rest became, a worthy farmer's wife.*



*Happy Mother's Day* from Ruthie Brown and Karen Johnson.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Free%20Flower%20Print%20laurel&qsn=&form=QBIRMH&sp=-1&pq=free%20flower%20print%20laurel&sc=0-24&sk=&cvid=7E4B7D5D5E714B43B13B3C99BCF4EC59>

## NEW ROOF ON THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HUEGUENOT HOUSE



Even on a rain filled day the new cedar roof on the 1760s Huguenot House in Martin Park reflects the shine of its new shingles. The new roof covers the front and the back of the historic house. It completely replaces the older roof which had developed an ever-increasing number of serious leaks. The photo of the front of the House facing Burnside Avenue is on the left. The back of House facing into the Park is on the right. The house will be open for tours and visiting again this summer. Check the web [www.hseh.org/programs](http://www.hseh.org/programs) for times and dates. Photos by Bill Knose.

### COME, ENJOY THE SOCIETY'S OPEN HOUSE

**Brewer house**  
**at the intersection of Main and Naubuc**  
**Sunday June 9, 2019**  
**10am – 4pm**  
**no fee**

#### **Inside:**

exhibit of antique toys and tools  
old photos of East Hartford – what do you recognize?  
portraits and people - photos from the past - help us identify them – some surnames on display are Merriman, Little, Goodwin  
some older high school class pictures

#### **Outside:**

Friends and Fund Raiser Tag Sale:  
picture frames, new and used, big and small; large framed pictures from an old bank (1960s?)  
kitchen items never used, others like new  
plants: lilies, Canas, Victorian Blue Iris, cactus, ...

Most items under \$5.00 All funds raised will be used to help the historical society properties

## Historical Society of East Hartford

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

**Deadline Sep Newsletter** – Aug 20, 2019

**Clipart:** female artist

[https://o.quizlet.com/90fh9WTZfEZckhyIhhqAyQ\\_m.png](https://o.quizlet.com/90fh9WTZfEZckhyIhhqAyQ_m.png)



## May Program

Date: **May 15, 2019**

Program: **Jessie Goodwin Preston  
(1879-1873), woman artist  
from E Htd**

Speaker: **Gary Knoble, CT Art  
Historian**

Where: **Raymond Library**

Address: **740 Main St**

Time: **7:00 pm**

Fee: none; **public welcome**

Info: Craig, **860-568-2884**