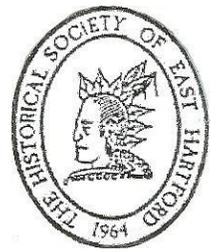


Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, May 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I attended a meeting of the Historic District Commission of which I am a new member. I mentioned the Hockanum School site, and the HDC will lend us any support that we may need. I will be calling a meeting of the Hockanum School Restoration Committee as soon as it is safe to do so. I will keep the HSEH and the Committee posted.

I trust that everyone is abiding by the guidelines that were issued by the Governor. His guidelines are in keeping with his concerns for safety, security, and keeping the spread of the virus in check. And as citizens, we have been charged with altering our schedules and routines. I thank our membership for stepping up to the plate, and for making those sacrifices.

On behalf of the Historical Society of East Hartford, I wish to express our condolences to any members who have lost family and friends to this pandemic. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

When the situation improves, and social distancing is somewhat lifted, we will again get our organization up and running again. You will be kept posted by either the newsletter, the newspaper, or electronically of any activities that we had to postpone for safety reasons. We just need to be patient.

The HSEH wishes that everyone be well and stay safe. The old adage an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is certainly applicable in these circumstances.

Steven Strange, President, Historical Society of East Hartford

MAY 20th MEETING & PROGRAM NOTE

The Historical Society's meeting and program originally scheduled for May 20th at the Raymond Library is canceled due to the pandemic. Ironically, this day in May has some significance in Connecticut when our lives might start to return to a sense of normalcy, but we have a long way to go. Our annual dinner meeting is scheduled in September at the First Congregational Church but right now, that future is uncertain. Our safety is the number one concern so it might be possible that even this event could be canceled or postponed.

During the month of June, we had planned to participate once again in the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's Trails Day weekend and Connecticut Open House Day. However, both events will not happen because of required social distancing. On Sunday afternoons during July and August we still hope to open the Martin Park Huguenot House museum buildings for free tours. Once again, all is dependent upon safety and how much progress is made in reducing the amount of virus infections. We may not be able to open every Sunday afternoon or reopen at all.

For any questions, please call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884. *Craig Johnson, Vice President / Program Chair*

IN MEMORIUM

Francesco "Frank" Tedeschi, a resident of East Hartford for 55 years and a member of our Historical Society passed away on Friday, April 3, 2020. The Historical Society extends its sincere sympathy to his wife Gretchen.

PHOTO FROM THE PAST – DORIS AND HER FRIENDS 2008



Due to self-isolating restrictions placed on the people of Connecticut because of the current coronavirus pandemic, Ruth Shapleigh-Brown found herself at home recently with time to spare. She used it in sorting and reorganizing her many boxes of records of Societies she has been associated with. She found this particular photo of members of this Historical Society and Members of the Friends of Center Cemetery gathered on a beautiful evening in 2008 to honor Doris Suessman (seated). We were gathered to celebrate Doris' many years of wide ranging, strong and never-ending support for preserving the history in our town. Doris was one of the original founders and leaders of this Historical Society and also of Friends of Center Cemetery. She fought to preserve and showcase the Makins Bemont House, to restore the Pitkin Mausoleum and the Civil War Monument in Center Cemetery, to persuade Pratt & Whitney to donate and then to relocate the Brewer House to its present site from the old entrance at the Wilgoos Labs. Her list goes on. It is a far reaching and long one.

Seated is Doris Suessman. In the second row are (left to right) Betty Russell, Gerry Rozie, Eileen Driscoll, Janice Arbuckle. Marian Anderson (profile, facing Doris), Betty Knose, Mary Dowden. In the third row are (left to right) Ray Tubbs, Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Craig Johnson, Bill Knose, Ida Gall, Steve Skidgel, unknown, George Soppelsa. Photo courtesy of Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, dated 2008.

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: 860-528-0716, hseh@hseh.org
indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

Deadline Sept Newsletter – *August notification will follow*

May Program

CANCELLED

*Due to federal, state and local
health concerns caused by the
coronavirus pandemic*