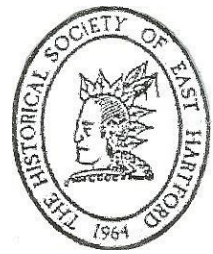


# *Historical Society of East Hartford*

*Newsletter, September 2020*



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Friends of the Historical Society of East Hartford,**

- I trust you are all well and safe, and managing to confront and cope with the challenges that COVID-19 has brought us. Cooperation and understanding from the citizenry are key in controlling the spread of the virus. so far, East Hartford and Connecticut are doing well.
- The activities of the Historical Society of East Hartford are still in force, but moving at a snail's pace because of the pandemic.
- We have come up with a strategic plan for the Hockanum School building. The committee has the proposed plan, and we are awaiting their input. Once the comments, suggestions, and additional ideas are received, revisions can be made, and we can move forward. The building is too valuable to let it succumb to the wrecking ball (See "Plan for..." article).
- A reminder that the 2020-2021 dues can be paid to the treasurer, Joyce Yoo..
- We had planned on a Board meeting, but weather conditions prevented such a meeting. We hope to reschedule soon. Stay tuned for date, time and place. Since Town Facilities are closed, a site can be problematic. Any suggestions for a safe, alternate site would be welcome.
- The annual dinner meeting at the First Congregational Church has been cancelled due to the pandemic. The church's kitchen has been closed and the number of attendees in its lower meeting room are limited.
- Also cancelled at this dinner will be voting from the floor for HSEH Officers and Directors. Voting this year will be held by mail/email (See "Nominations" article).
- Karen and Ruth are still accessioning items in our collection. New items have been received, and are quite interesting.
- I would like to have a small ceremony at the Dough Boy statue, Ready, come November 11 (See "Ceremony..." article).

Any ideas, concerns, or suggestions that you have, please let me know by either email [farfagliabutterfly@yahoo.com](mailto:farfagliabutterfly@yahoo.com) or [micomicona1605@yahoo.com](mailto:micomicona1605@yahoo.com), or by telephone 860-528-4989. Again, continue to be well and stay safe.

Steven Strange, President, Historical Society of East Hartford

## **⇒ THE ANNUAL DINNER HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC**

### **CEREMONY AT DOUGH BOY STATUE, READY, NOVEMBER 11**

I would like to have a small ceremony at the Dough Boy statue, Ready, come November 11. Perhaps a laying of a wreath, and a few words from the mayor. It would be advertised in the newspaper so the public can attend. Your suggestions and ideas are welcome. Email [farfagliabutterfly@yahoo.com](mailto:farfagliabutterfly@yahoo.com) or [micomicona1605@yahoo.com](mailto:micomicona1605@yahoo.com), or phone 860-528-4989.

Steven Strange, President HSEH

## NOMINATIONS

The nominations for the slate of Officers and Directors is the same as what was voted on at the 2019 annual meeting, less Dan Russell who has completed his last 4-year term as a Director. Thank you again Dan for your many years of serving the Historical Society in this role. Following are the slate of Officers and Directors for the 2020 – 2021 Historical Society of East Hartford Executive Board:

President: Steven Strange  
Vice President: Craig Johnson  
Secretary: Eileen Driscoll  
Treasurer: Joyce Yoo

Directors:  
4 Year: Open Position  
3 Year: Christine Dolinsky  
2 Year: Jeffrey Cummings  
1 Year: Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

No action is required on your vote in favor of the slate of Officers.

According to Robert's Rules of Order, there can be nominations from the floor. Therefore, in the absence of an actual floor vote, please mail us your nomination if different from above. We are also asking for someone from our membership to volunteer for a new 4-year term as Director. All the above Officers, Directors and Standing Committee Chairpersons are much appreciated for their continued loyalty in serving the Society. Craig Johnson

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### Nominations 'From the Floor' For the Slate of Officers; Please reply by September 30, 2020

Nominated \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

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### Volunteer for Position of 4-year Director:

Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc., Po Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166  
or email craigrj@comcast.net (in subject line add "nominations and volunteer")

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The newsletter includes a renewal notice for Historical Society membership in the September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021 year. Pursuant to the updated Historical Society Purpose, Constitution and By-laws accepted at the 2019 annual meeting, there is a small increase in membership dues. Individual memberships are now \$20 per year or \$25 per year for all persons living at the same address. Now more than ever we need your support.

Craig Johnson

## REMINDER ON DUES, MAIL, AND ASSISTANCE

This is a friendly reminder on paying dues. If dues are not paid for 2 full fiscal years without explanation, the delinquent member's name, on Executive Board recommendation, will be dropped from the HSEH membership roll. All mail from the HSEH will stop. If assistance in paying dues is needed, there is assistance available. For help please do contact the Membership Chair, Judy Hillmann, in confidence, at 860-568-7261 or judithhillmann@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

Judith Hillmann

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021

### Annual memberships are now due; please mail them to the address below

Once again it is time to renew our memberships. The Historical Society depends on your membership to keep doing our community projects, sharing our rich history, and keeping our historical buildings open.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY,STATE,ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (default mail) \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL NEWS? Y\_\_N\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 / Individual \$25.00/One address  
\$10.00 / Student \$50.00/Patron \$250.00/Lifetime

Make a check for membership out to: **The Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc. (HSEH)**  
Mail check to: **Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc., Po Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166.**

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## HSEH BOOKS FOR SALE

The Historical Society participated in the development of two hardcover books that were published in 2019 and we have a limited supply of the books available for sale to members and guests. One is a book authored by Marty Podskoch called the "Connecticut 169 Club". The cost is \$24.95. The other book is called "Greater Hartford Memories" and the Historical Society with several other partner organizations participated with The Hartford Courant on this picture book. We had photographs imaged from our own collection and from the Raymond Library collection. The cost is \$44.95. To help us out, please consider purchasing these books from the Historical Society (cash or check only) and you can save on shipping / handling costs. The books also make great gifts. You can call me at 860-869-4642 to arrange a pick-up time at the Selden Brewer House, 165 Main Street. We are usually there on Tuesdays.

Craig Johnson

## THE HSEH MUSEUM BUILDINGS AT MARTIN PARK

If 2020 was a normal year, our historical buildings at Martin Park would have been open again for eight consecutive Sunday afternoons during July and August. Because of the COVID-19 world pandemic, that did not happen. Museum donations that we rely upon for income were all but non-existent this year. However, the safety of our guests and volunteers could not be taken lightly. All members of the Historical Society should be aware that our museum can always open by appointment. If you, or any invited guests would like to visit us, just call our telephone number (860-528-0716) and we can schedule a tour.

There have been some recent developments on searching for maintenance work possibilities on our museum buildings. Paul O'Sullivan, the Grants Manager of the Town, has offered to help us on applying for some matching grants from Preservation Connecticut and / or the State Historic Preservation Office. The Schoolhouse is in bad need of repairs, requires a roof replacement and siding repair work. The Huguenot House could also use some repair work on the side boards and a new coat of paint. One of the early agreements we made with the Town is that they cover the cost of outside building maintenance while the Historical Society is responsible for inside work. With no museum donations due to this year's closing, we would have difficulty on coming up with any matching contributions if left to obtain grants on our own. Any help the Town of East Hartford could give us would be greatly appreciated.

Craig Johnson

## PLAN FOR RECOGNITION AND PLAN FOR HOCKANUM SCHOOL

We are opening this discussion on the preservation of the Hockanum School to the HSEH membership. Please write down your comments, suggestions, concerns, ideas, etc. and email them back to me at farfagliabutterfly@yahoo.com or micomicona1605@yahoo.com , or call 860-528-4989. We are developing a strategy and a solid plan to be presented to the mayor.

- Obtain most recent evaluation of the structural integrity of the building from the Town structural engineer.
- Based on this report, determine what needs to be done to bring building up to code and handicapped accessible, and who can be contracted for said restoration. Volunteer craftsman from the community?
- Approximate costs for these renovations and code upgrades.
- Determine public usage for this building.
- Obtain historical information and photographs of interior and exterior of the building.
- Submit application and supportive materials to the State for designation as a state historic structure.
- Work with Town grant writer to determine how grant monies can be obtained to begin upgrades and renovations.
- Create a plan to inform community of this endeavor, and ask for donations for a fund to restore this building.
- Other suggestions, idea, recommendation, and strategies from the Hockanum Restoration Committee.

Thank you, Steven Strange, President, HSEH

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### Historical Society of East Hartford

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

**Phone:** 860-528-0716

**Email:** [hseh@hseh.org](mailto:hseh@hseh.org), [webmaster@hseh.org](mailto:webmaster@hseh.org)

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

**Membership:** 860-528-0716, [hseh@hseh.org](mailto:hseh@hseh.org)

indiv \$20, 1 address \$25, student \$10

patron \$50, lifetime \$250

**Deadline** Nov Newsletter – Oct 31, 2020