

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2014

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OFFICERS:

President: Eleanor Woike
Vice Pres.: Nancy Schnyer
Secretary: Loda Sheehan
Treasurer: Harry Schuh

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Luella Bartes
James Curtis
Carol Kearns
Candace Jones-Pacholski
Elaine Sederquist

CURATORS:

Beverly Mosher
Bonnie Andrews

BUILDINGS:

Dennis Andrews

IMMEDIATE PAST PRES:

Richard Pacholski

Bus Trip to Boston Planned May 9th

The Harwinton Historical Society has scheduled a bus trip to walk the Freedom Trail in Boston on Friday, May 9. The excursion will be led by UConn Professor Dr. Karl Valois as a follow-up to his 2013 mini-course on the Revolutionary War.

The cost is \$35 per person and advance reservations are required as there will be limited seating. Payment will be collected in March.

The Freedom Trail is a 2.5 mile, brick-lined route that passes many historically significant sites including museums, churches and burying grounds. Discover the rich history of the American Revolution from Boston, its birthplace. The group will stop midway at the Union Oyster House where lunch will be available (lunch is not included in \$35 trip price).

Interested persons should either call Candace Jones-Pacholski at [860-485-9343](tel:860-485-9343) or e-mail her at cmhjp43@charter.net to reserve a space. Please give Candace your name, the number of people going on the trip, an address and, if possible, an e-mail address so you can be reached when it is time to send a check.



30 People Attend First Class on Connecticut History

Dr. Karl Valois led the first of two classes on the history of Connecticut Sunday, January 19th at the Harwinton Library. About 30 people attended the first session that focused on Connecticut's earliest settlements and settlers up to the Revolutionary War.

A second session is scheduled at the library on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. Both programs are sponsored by the Harwinton Historical Society. There is no charge for this program.

StEPs PROGRAM

An internal group of six members of the Harwinton Historical Society attended the Connecticut Standards and Excellence Programs for history organizations that were mostly held in 2012 and 2013. The StEPs program is working to achieve national standards for history organizations. That core group, led by Dick Pacholski, includes Candace Jones-Pacholski, Harry Schuh, Carol Kearns, Bonnie Andrews and Dennis Andrews. Recently, the group met to complete the requirements for the basic StEPs program in order to apply for “bronze” certification in five units. Completion of a sixth and final unit is expected during the first half of 2014. Finalizing a Strategic Plan, Disaster Recovery Plan and Collections Policy Plan were part of the effort. The Board of Directors has already approved mission and vision statements and a code of ethics policy for the society and has reviewed the Strategic Plan. We are also well on our way toward applying for “silver” certification in a number of areas. At the Jan. 23 meeting of the Board of Directors, the six core members of StEPs for Harwinton agreed to continue as a standing committee. Anyone interested in getting involved in the program should contact any member of that group or society President Ellie Woike. More to come ...

A BIT OF TRIVIA: *Harwinton has 5 public cemeteries and 3 private burial grounds.
Can you name them? Answer in March newsletter*

ANNUAL DUES: Historical Society dues are payable now for 2014. To continue your membership or to join, please send \$15 per person to the Harwinton Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are receiving this newsletter via the US Postal Service, but you have an email address that you are willing to share, it would save the historical society financially if you would forward that email address to harwhistsoc@gmail.com so you could be put on the email distribution list.

Upcoming Programs & Events

Feb. 2 – Sunday – 2-4 p.m. at Harwinton Library, Bentley Drive. Dr. Karl Valois on **Connecticut History** – Part II

April 17 –Thursday - 6:30 p.m. at Skinner House - Board of Directors meeting

May 9 – Friday – All day bus trip to Boston to walk the Freedom Trail. See additional information in this newsletter. Reservations required.

July 19 – Thursday - 6:30 p.m. at Skinner House - Board of Directors meeting

August – Annual ice cream social. Date and time to be announced.

Oct. 16 - Thursday - 6:30 p.m. at Skinner House - Board of Directors meeting

Curator's Corner

The curators are looking for someone willing to volunteer one Monday morning to inventory the three history books that the historical society sells throughout the year.

This is a one-time endeavor that could be accomplished in an hour or two. Please contact Bev Mosher at 860-485-0610 if you are interested.

- Curators Bev Mosher and Bonnie Andrews

It's Never Too Early To Start Thinking About The Harwinton Fair ...

The annual Harwinton Fair is held the first weekend in October – Oct 4 and 5. That may seem like a long way from now, but it's never too early to start thinking about how you can participate. This is a major fund-raising opportunity for the Harwinton Historical Society. The Country Store is filled each year with donated bakery items, candy, hand-made crafts, plants, books, displays, demonstrations and pottery. The front porch of the store is a nice place to sit for a spell. Ken Birden has been the resident blacksmith at the fair's blacksmith shop for several years. Next door, an antique shingle mill is put into operation each year to demonstrate how wooden shingles were made years ago. Brian Dunbar is the millwright at the shingle mill.

So, how can you help? If you have a skill or craft-related talent and can use the winter months to produce even one item that can be sold in the store it would be helpful. Take the winter to look for "like new" books and other items that you would be willing to donate.

HAPPENINGS NEARBY:

Warner Theatre Event: Jan. 25 to March 9, 2014: "The Way We Worked," A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit. Free and open to the public Thurs and Fri 1-7pm; Sat & Sun 1-5 pm. Held in the Warner Theatre's Nancy Marine Studio Theatre Lobby. The exhibit documents 130 years (1857-1987) of changing work life in America.

Harwinton Library Event: speaker Ed Johnetta Miller, Feb. 1, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Miller is an author, artist, quilter and granddaughter of a Pullman Porter. Register: harwintonpl.org or call 860-485-9113.

Warner Theatre Special Event: Feb. 9, 3-6 pm. Historian, author and photographer Joe Manning will present the stories of five child laborers and his journey to find their families. In the Nancy Marine Studio Theatre. Free Admission. Register at Warnertheatre.org or 860-489-7181 ext. 189.

Feb. 21: Torrington Historical Society day-long bus trip to five manufacturing plants. \$10 includes box lunch. Call 860-482-8260 for more information.

Consider volunteering as a judge at a History Day in Connecticut contest this spring. Judges talk to students, review & rank projects, and determine who moves on to the state and national competitions. New judges are paired with experienced ones, and judging usually finishes by 2:30 pm, sometimes earlier. Lunch is provided.



There are six district competitions. The one closest to Harwinton is:

- Torrington: Saturday, March 29th at Torrington High School

History Day in Connecticut is an affiliate of National History Day. 4,000 Connecticut students conduct research and make creative projects based on a yearly theme; this year's theme is Rights and Responsibilities in History. To learn more, visit the [History Day in Connecticut Website \(http://ct.nhd.org\)](http://ct.nhd.org) and download an application form.

To Volunteer:

Contact Rebecca at [860-522-6766 ext. 11](tel:860-522-6766) or Rebecca.Taber-Conover@cga.ct.gov

PERSONAL NOTES: Bruce Mosher is a resident of Brandywine Senior Living in Litchfield and would appreciate a visit from you. The best time to visit is in the morning or early afternoon.

If you know of members who are homebound or reside at a facility, brighten their day with a phone call or brief visit.

***All members are encouraged to attend historical society meetings and programs
New members and guests are always welcome.***

For information concerning the newsletter, contact Bonnie Andrews at harwhistsoc@gmail.com or 860-482-7978