



President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends.

As I consider the content of this last message as the President of the OSHS, I recall so many moments and memories that it would be impossible to summarize what these last four years have meant to me. I have attempted over that time to use this newsletter as a means of keeping you all abreast of the events, functions, activities, programs, areas of growth and challenges. Rather than take up ink and paper with noting all of this again (and running the risk of forgetting any one thing) I will trust that if you are reading this now you kept up through the years as well.

In truth it wasn't what we did that was so meaningful to me it was the people who did it that were so special. In every organization there is a core group of volunteers that make everything happen and it's no different for us. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those individuals for a job well done. In no particular order I'll start with the Women of Ways and Means (men are welcome, we just don't happen to have any in this group at the moment!). The tag team of Donna DiBella, Ronnie Pedimonte and Pat Osborne as co-chairs of this committee is exceptional, and any non-profit organization would count itself fortunate to have these women as its fundraising arm. They would be the first to tell you that they didn't do it alone but I can tell you it wouldn't have happened at all if it weren't for these 3 women. Thank you ladies for your support of the OSHS and also for me. I truly appreciate it.

Another group who comes to mind is my Executive Committee, and I'll take a moment here to address each one separately as they function in very different ways. I'll start with Linda Kinsella, VP, who is almost my polar opposite in the best way possible. Her talents and commitments cover areas that I have no or few skills sets in and so we covered a lot of bases without overlapping each other. I never worried about any project Linda took on and knew she would see that it was taken care of no matter what.

Bob Pedemonti, Treasurer, is exactly what a President of a non-profit all volunteer organization hopes to have in a treasurer. He is meticulous, financially knowledgeable and conservative when it comes to spending. Under his advisement the Board wisely voted to put the endowment under professional

management (through Guilford Savings Bank) before the stock market took a nose dive in 2008. We weathered the ups and downs and are in sound financial standing because of this move.

Diane Hoyt, Recording Secretary, is literally my right arm and left brain! I could not have gotten through these 4 years without her. Not just her work in the office but her willingness to pitch in wherever necessary, whenever necessary, without ever a complaint. Not to mention the really funny and supportive e-mails she sends. I always seem to get one just when I need it most.

Among these 3 people they pretty much know everything that is happening in the organization at all times and I have appreciated their guidance and support over my terms. Thank you isn't enough to express my gratitude.

I'd like to thank the following volunteers, chairs, friends and sponsors for always stepping up to the plate when asked,

Irmy Hermanson: Hospitality co-chair

Edna Haagensen: Garden Guru

Lisa LeMonte: Membership Chair

Lamar LeMonte: PR Chair

The entire Archives group

The Student Guides and Marie McFarlin co-chair of the guide program

The Garden Girls

Sponsors

Jon and Melissa Lorensen, Lorensen Auto Group

Matt and Hadass Rubin

Guilford Savings Bank

Gail and Ralph Gometz

Thompson and Peck Insurance

Carl Keuster

Last but not least, I thank my husband, Bill Childress, for his support and encouragement during these four years. He has been my proof reader, sounding board and advisor. He has helped set up and tear down many events, hauled trash, tended bar, found sponsors, chased down grants, answered legal questions, provided space for planning sessions, listened to my frustrations (yes there were a few moments) but mostly

Officers

Randi Bradbury, *President*
 Linda Kinsella, *Vice President*
 Walter Osborne, *Past President*
 Robert Pedemonti, *Treasurer*
 Diane Hoyt, *Corresponding Secretary*
 Recording Secretary

Trustees

Bob Duncan
 Army Hermanson
 Lisa LeMonte
 Marie McFarlin
 Suzanna Otto
 Arlene Sakatos
 Viola Tagliatela

Chairpersons

Archivist
 Polly Timken
Archives Building Management
 Elaine Staplins
Buildings
 Stephen Gernhardt
Docents/Guides
Education
 Mike Rafferty
Exhibits
Finance
 Bob Pedemonti
Gardens
 Audrey Goodhue
 Linda Kinsella
Grants
 Bill Childress
Hospitality
 Army Hermanson
 Ronnie Pedemonti
Insurance
 Walter Osborne
Lectures
 Linda Kinsella
Library
 Dorothy Swan
Membership
 Lisa LeMonte
 Diane Hoyt
Museum
 Donna DiBella
 Marie McFarlin
Newsletter
 Randi Bradbury
Publicity & Photos
 Lamar LeMonte
Registrar
 Dorothy Swan
Ways & Means
 Ronnie Pedemonti
Webmaster
 Jim Rothgeb

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he encouraged me to do what was in my heart even if it wasn't the way it used to be done! Thanks to all of you for everything you have done during this time.

All of the committees have many volunteers who pitch in at different times for different things. I've asked each committee chair to acknowledge these volunteers in their own reports inside this issue.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Old Saybrook Historical Society will be held Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 6PM at the General William Hart House. A buffet, catered by Pasta Vita, will include wine, soft drinks, dinner, dessert and coffee for a fee of \$20. Please RSVP by sending your check made payable to OSHS and mail to OSHS PO Box 4, Old Saybrook, Ct 06475. Note on check:: "Annual Meeting". If you have any questions you may call Ronnie Pedemonti (388-5435) or Army Hermanson (395-2095). See you all on the 20th!

Hart House Report

We are pleased to report that S.D. Hallahan Housewrights, Inc. is finishing Phase I of the structural repairs to the H.H. This phase includes installing drywells, repointing all 3 chimneys, installing a whole house dehumidifier, repair of the portico, powerwashing and applying wood preservative to all buildings and roofs.

The Board will address the more extensive Phase II upon receipt of the detailed proposal by S.D. Hallahan. The Board will explore options for financing this phase of the project as it is likely to be costly.

There are many people who go without recognition through the years and most don't care, they do it because they love it. I hope I haven't offended anyone with an omission of recognition. The lists are long and my memory is short. Please know that the work you all do for the organization does not go unnoticed and that there would be no OSHS without your ongoing commitments.

I am excited to support the new Board and Executive Committee as they take over the vision moving forward.

Warmest Regards,
Randi

From the Board of Trustees

The Nominating Committee submitted the following candidates to the Board of Trustees. The Board voted to accept the nominations as presented. The Board now submits the following candidates to the members for their consideration. The members can vote for the nominees at the annual meeting Oct. 20th at the Hart House (details in this issue).

Executive Committee: terms expiring 10-31-2012

President: Linda Kinsella
 Vice Pres: Marie McFarlin
 Past Pres: Randi Bradbury
 Treasurer: Bob Pedemonti
 Secretary: Diane Hoyt

Trustees: terms expiring 10-31-2013
 Karen Emack Dolson
 Army Hermanson
 Tedd Levy

Trustee: term expiring 10-31-2012
 Edmund Mosca

Respectfully submitted,
The Board of Trustees

A Step Back in Time

On behalf of the 375th Committee I would like to thank all those responsible for the success of, "A Step Back in Time" held on Sunday, August 15, 2010 at the Bushnell Farm. Over 400 adults, forty volunteers (many in period costume) and too many children to count attended a wonderful family day event from noon until 4pm. The evening barbecue served 180 satisfied diners while being serenaded by the Old Fiddler's Club of Rhode Island. Herb and Sherry Clark so generously opened the farm to the town and the Society and after

all was said and done, we raised nearly \$15,000 for the Society.

Approximately 15 people including Brenda Milkofsky, curator of the Bushnell Farm, worked for eight months to plan this event. If you did not attend you really missed something! THANK YOU to our sponsors and all those volunteers, members and non members, adults and children who gave of themselves and had fun doing it! Here's to our 400th!!!

Donna D. DiBella, Member 375th Committee



Chapman Lectures

November 16th, Tuesday 7pm, Acton Library, 60 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, a lecture by David Numec and Kevin McBride of the Pequot Museum.

This will be a return visit by David Naumec who has been working closely with Anne Sweet and the Old Saybrook Historical Society. They will present a talk

focused on their survey of Mystic Fort and Porters Rocks. They will share methodology and describe future plans as they begin to search for evidence of Saybrook Fort and Pequot War era skirmishes.

There is no admission fee to the Chapman Lectures.

Fort Saybrook

In 1635, with the formation of the Saybrook Company by the English Patentees, the plans for a Fort at the mouth of the Connecticut River began. John Winthrop was hired as Governor and Lion Gardiner as engineer for the construction. Now, 375 years later, Chiara Scarpelli, a recent graduate of Old Saybrook High School and a four year student volunteer for the Society, completed her Senior Project by researching information about this Fort and its history, past and present. This project involved writing a documented paper based on her research and building a model of the Fort to apply the information she gathered. It is now displayed in our Exhibit Gallery. Visitors and members are amazed by the quality of her work.



The project evolved from Chiara's commitment to preserve and share the history of Old Saybrook and her desire to do something for the 375th Celebration of the founding of the Saybrook Colony. She worked closely with the Society as she gathered her materials, planned and organized her research. As a result of her loyalty and commitment to the goals of the Society, she has donated her model for us to use as an educational tool.

During her volunteer time with the society, Chiara has mentored new student volunteers, given many tours of the Hart House, and offered her services at our special events. As she leaves for college at George Washington University, she will carry fond memories of her time volunteering with the Society and, as her Mother wrote, "She has learned a lot." We wish her the best experience in the new phase of her life and we know that she will visit us whenever she can and offer a "helping hand". BRAVO!

Student Volunteers

At the present time we have fourteen high school

student volunteers. These students can be found working on special events, in the Archives, gardens and Hart House serving as Guides and helpers to do whatever is required to be of service. To become a volunteer, they must fill out an application stating why they want to work with the Society. This is followed by two meetings to explain expectations and start them on their journey to learn about the Hart House and family, the history of their town, the goals and workings of the Society, etc. They must give at least 15 hours of volunteer time a year to complete the requirements. We stress with them that this all takes time and that, if they continue learning, and as representatives of the Society respect its wonderful resources and the hundreds of volunteers over the years that made it all possible, they will be successful.

Wendy Mill, Youth and Family Services Coordinator, Mike Rafferty, principal and Bob LaBriola, social studies teacher, both from the Middle School, are the advocates of the program. Many Society members work closely with the students and have much to offer to help them.

We are now working on the third senior project. The first two, from Chris Covey and Chiara Scarpelli, were outstanding and received wonderful critiques from their teachers. This is an outstanding use of the Society's resources and we are pleased to be part of this



educational experience.

The Student Volunteer Program has much potential for growth. We are now hoping that more Society Members will participate with the planning, execution and monitoring of this program. You will not regret it. If you are interested, please call Marie McFarlin.

Tea & Scones: Preserving the Season

October 28th, Thursday 1 pm, General William Hart House, admission - free.

A talk and demonstration by Nina Garrett on making apple-lavender jelly, apple butter and apple sauce. This is the first in a series of crafts and skills that will be held at the Hart House throughout the year. Please call 860-395-1635 to attend.



Hart House Gardens

The summer brought many visitors to our lovely gardens including a Civil War “living history” reenactment conducted on the Hart House campus.

It’s been a bountiful season for tomatoes harvested from Sally’s Garden. Of course flowers are the main attraction to the many butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and human visitors.

A garden doesn’t flourish without loving hands and strong backs. Our dedicated gardeners are both knowledgeable and hardworking. Their energy creates the serene setting visitors enjoy.

We are busy with Fall plans including building mulch and leaf mould bins behind the garden shed. We are also building nursery beds for dividing and wintering over some of our plants. The newly designed colonial herb garden should be done by the end of October.

Entrances to both the Hart House and Archive building have been planted with boxwood and colorful mums and asters for Autumn.

Garden Wish List:

- A volunteer with teaching background to work with the middle school students on developing “gardening for life” skills.
- A volunteer to give “walk & talk” garden tours.
- A large garden cart
- Old bricks
- More volunteers to fight the war on weeds.



The garden is blessed to be tended by these wonderful volunteers: Flavia Adams, Edna Haagenen, Marianne Pfeiffer, Joan Wendler, Sheila Graham-Smith, Irene Smith, Beverly Kegler, Kacey Constable and Sherry Eldridge.

Flavia Adams, a UCONN certified Master Gardener celebrates 25 years as a Hart House garden volunteer. She is a real treasure for the garden.

Thank you one and all.

Linda Kinsella, Keeper

It’s been a pleasure working with the Staff at Essex Printing on the newsletter over these 4 years. I especially appreciate AC’s assistance and guidance in creating the layout. Also many thanks to David for his generosity in assisting us with this color edition as a thank you to us for these years of working together.

Warmest Regards, Randi

Barbara Weeks Hart

December 4, 1920-August 26, 2010

Barbara was a dear friend to the Society and will be greatly missed by her many friends here. Upon moving to Old Saybrook with her husband George in 1978 they joined the Society and she became the editor for this newsletter for the next 14 years. Our deepest sympathy to her family, friends and loved ones.

Randi Bradbury

New Members

Ada Kennedy, Old Saybrook
 Jessica Davis, Jacksonville, FL
 Joelle & Donald Grauer, Norwalk
 Joyce Grossbard, Englewood, NJ
 Debbie Alvord, Old Saybrook
 Gerhard & Hanna Krauland
 Thomas & Joanne Pisani, Sloatsburg, NY
 Andrea Jones, Old Saybrook
 Ann-Marie Watson, Gorham, ME

Leave a Legacy: Saybrook Colony Legacy Guild

Please consider the generous decision to designate the Old Saybrook Historical Society, Inc. in your will. By joining the OSHS Saybrook Colony Legacy Guild you will create a lasting opportunity for generations to see and experience Saybrook's extraordinary past.

Your attorney may include a simple statement in your will such as: "I give and bequeath to the Old Saybrook Historical Society, Inc. 350 Main St. Old Saybrook CT 06475.

- a) _____% of my estate, (or)
- b) The sum of _____, (or)
- c) The following assets or property (described here), (or)
- d) 'All the rest and residue of my estate for its endowment.'

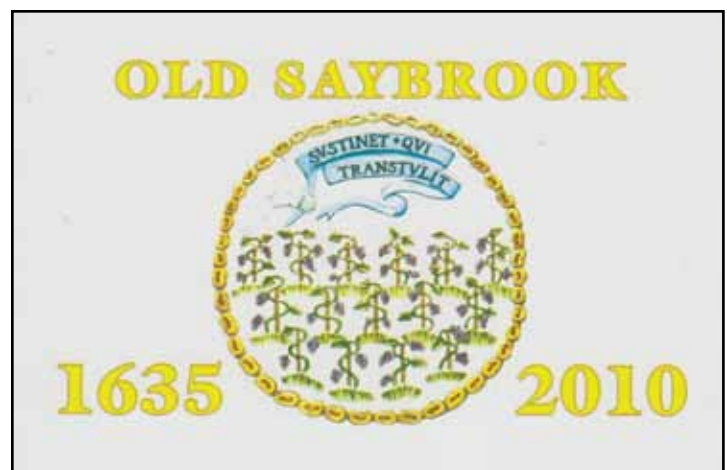
For more information about making a planned gift, call Randi Bradbury, President OSHS, at 860-388-2118 or e-mail randijune@sbcglobal.net.

Connecticut's First Seal

Connecticut's first seal was brought from England by Colonel George Fenwick in 1639. As governor of Saybrook Colony, Fenwick would seal his documents with a ring which is believed to be the basis for the present official seal of the State of Connecticut.

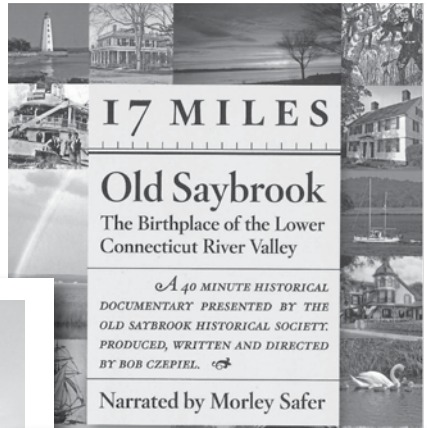
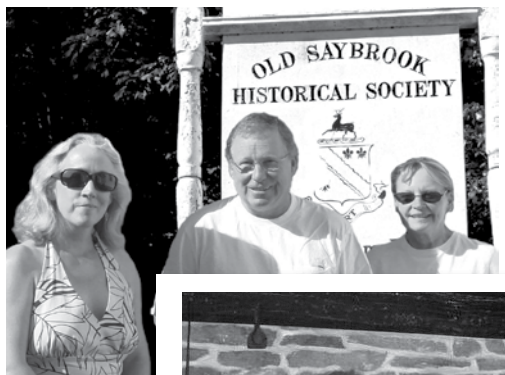
The seal was turned over to Connecticut Colony when it purchased the land and fort at Saybrook Point from Colonel Fenwick in 1644. Although it remains unknown, some view the 15 vines as representing the original gentlemen granted land by the Earl of Warwick to establish Saybrook Colony. The motto, in Latin, "Sustinet Qui Transtulit" means "He who transplanted sustains."

The seal was used by the Connecticut General Assembly until 1687 when Sir Edmund Andros took control of the Colony and the seal disappeared and is presumed to have been destroyed. In 1711 a new, more oval seal was designed. The number of grape vines was reduced to three, representing the



original colonies of Connecticut (Hartford, New Haven, and Saybrook) which had merged in 1665 to form Connecticut. With minor changes it remains today as the Great Seal of the State of Connecticut.

Highlights from 2007-2010





The Old Saybrook Historical Society

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Calendar of Events

- October 20** **Annual Meeting**
Election of Trustees
& Officers
6 pm, Hart House
- October 28** **Tea and Scones**
1 pm, Hart House
- November 16** **Chapman Lecture**
Series
7 pm, Acton Library



*At this summer's Civil War Enactment at the Hart House: (l to r)
Civil War encampment actors. VP Linda Kinsella and Event Sponsor
Ralph Gometz*

This newsletter is generously
sponsored by

