

Museum Committee

For more than six years a Museum Committee has not existed. During that time committees directly involved with the Hart House, and many other members, realized the necessity to activate this Committee as soon as possible as neglect is not an option. In late spring, after much deliberation, we offered to accept this responsibility. With the approval of the Board of Trustees, we updated the job description and began the lengthy process of developing a five year plan that will preserve the House and its contents for future generations and, at the same time, will be “user-friendly.”

Our first order of business was the installation of new signs for the House and the Archives. Then it was onto safety issues. This involved the inspection of the fire extinguishers to be sure that they were working properly and strategically placed. This had not been done since the year 2000. At our request, the Fire Marshall checked both buildings with us. We made sure that all his recommendations were accomplished so that both buildings meet the code requirements. In the spring volunteers, who work in the House or the Archives, will have a training session on fire safety.

As part of our goal to form strong relationships with other groups to share resources, ideas and expertise, we spent a day at the Connecticut Historical Society’s Headquarters in Hartford. After an informative and productive meeting, we had a wonderful tour of their facilities.

In September we traveled to Vermont to return to Liz Putnam, the William Hart descendent, family treasures she generously loaned us for the summer. We are grateful to have Liz as a friend and advocate.

Under the tutelage of Dorothy Swan, the storage room is getting a much needed revamping. This spring we plan to examine thoroughly every part of the House from the attic to the basement to organize, evaluate, clean, etc. what is in our “nooks and crannies.”

Our appreciation extends to so many for their support and caring...Dorothy Swan who has and is doing so much to preserve and protect our “Home” and its history...Kathy DelMonico who is making the silver shine again...Charles Weldon who never refuses our pleas for help...Bob Pedemonti for his sage advice and

expertise...Steve Gernhardt who responds so willingly to our questions and “to do” lists... the Guides who share its story... the Gardeners who make the outside and inside so beautiful with their hard work and knowledge...the Hospitality Committee who make it come alive with all the happy events... the Ways and Means Committee who are incredible in their efforts to provide us the funds necessary to keep everything going... the past and present Officers, Boards of Trustees and members who have worked so diligently to keep this beautiful part of our town’s history for all to treasure. Thank you all!!!

As we have many commitments to the Society, especially the Guide Committee, we are hoping a Member(s) will come forth to assume that responsibility so that we can truly devote the time and energy necessary to meet our goals for the Museum Committee. We, of course, will do all we can to support that effort.

Donna and Marie

Volunteer Opportunities

- Archives: Data entry, filing, research
- Gardeners
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Web Site Research Assistant
- House Guides
- Docent Guide Chair

If you have a few free hours and would like to volunteer for any of these opportunities please call me at 395-1635.

Randi

New Members

Robert Antoniac	Old Saybrook
Ann Duncan	Culver City, CA
Wayne & Barbara Harms	Houston, TX
Joanne Klingerman	East Lyme
Carol Krause	Old Saybrook
Nell & Vincent Motto	Enfield, CT
Michael Rafferty	Old Saybrook
Elizabeth Rowley Sims	Atlanta, GA
Nancy Sprotte	San Diego, CA