



DEDICATED TO PRESERVING, PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE HISTORY OF OLD SAYBROOK

Spring 2016

June 4: Fourth Annual Antiques Sale & Appraisal Day



The Hart House Campus and Congregational Church Triangle Green will be filled with antiques dealers' collections.

Peter Dolson and Karen Emack-Dolson, owners of Saybrook Recycled Furniture LLC, are again chairing and co-sponsoring the Historical Society's popular "Antiques Sale & Appraisal Day." (Photos by Bill Roberts)

Old Saybrook Historical Society's
4th ANNUAL

ANTIQUES SHOW & APPRAISAL DAY
SATURDAY JUNE 4th

<p>SHOW 9am-4pm 70+ Dealers FREE ADMISSION</p>	<p>FOOD & HANDS-ON BREWED COOKS & DRAWING</p>	<p>ANTIQUES DEMONSTRATION DEMO 11am-1:00 FREE</p>
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APPRAISALS
10am-6:00
1 item \$7
3 items \$20

Proud Sponsor: **LORENSSEN**

For more information contact Karen at 860-562-2225 or korenrf@ms.com or visit www.saybrookhistory.org



The Lorensen Auto Group again is co-sponsoring the event.

Antiques Sale & Appraisal Day Details



The Old Saybrook Historical Society holds its fourth annual Antiques Sale and Appraisal Day Saturday, June 4, held on the Hart House campus, 350 Main Street.

Karen Emack-Dolson and Peter Dolson again chair this wonderful, fun-filled day, sponsored by their own Saybrook Recycled Furniture, LLC, as well as the Lorensen Auto Group.

The free-admission show has quickly become a popular, widely anticipated event and will feature more than 75 quality merchants who will offer distinctive antique and collectible items for sale. Plants from the Society's heritage gardens and refreshments from Clinton's "Chow" Food And Beverage Co. will be available.

Several notable experts will provide verbal appraisals of antiques, art work, primitive items, jewelry, books and manuscripts, and other items. Appraisal fees are \$7 for one item and \$20 for three.

New this year are talented area artisans and crafts people showcasing their skills in maintaining and repairing antique and art objects. Bob and Karen from Saybrooke Strip Shop will demonstrate chair seat weaving, as well as furniture refinishing and repair. Jayne from Chalk Mercantile will demonstrate reviving furniture through the use of chalk and paint.

Antiques Sale hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with appraisals from 10 to 1.

by Tedd Levy

President's Message

Four years ago I met with Karen Emack-Dolson to discuss the expansion of the successful appraisal evening fundraiser that she organized for the Society. She had a plan that included using our Campus to hold an "Antiques Sale and Appraisal Day."

It is now one of the premier events in our town. It has expanded to the historic area owned by the First Church of Christ and provides a venue that is first class in its organization and enjoyment. Saybrook Recycled Furniture, owned by Karen and Peter, also provides the financial backing as well as Lorensen Auto Group so that the Society receives a donation of more than \$5,500. It is a great day on our Campus and is a labor of love which is extraordinary in so many ways.

As we worked with the World War I exhibit last year, it became clear, from the conversations with our visitors,

that we needed to continue the dialogue with an exhibit that centered around World War II. We will provide artifacts from members of the community and a look at our town and what was happening here during the War. Rick Spencer will be performing to open the exhibit with a program that he created especially for this initiative. Our conversations with many local collectors and stories from many people in our area are inspiring and definitely thought-provoking. It is history that is personal, meaningful and powerful in its emotions.

The response to the Annual Appeal is fantastic. We are thrilled. We have many surprises that we will share in our next newsletter. I can hardly wait to tell you about them.

Marie

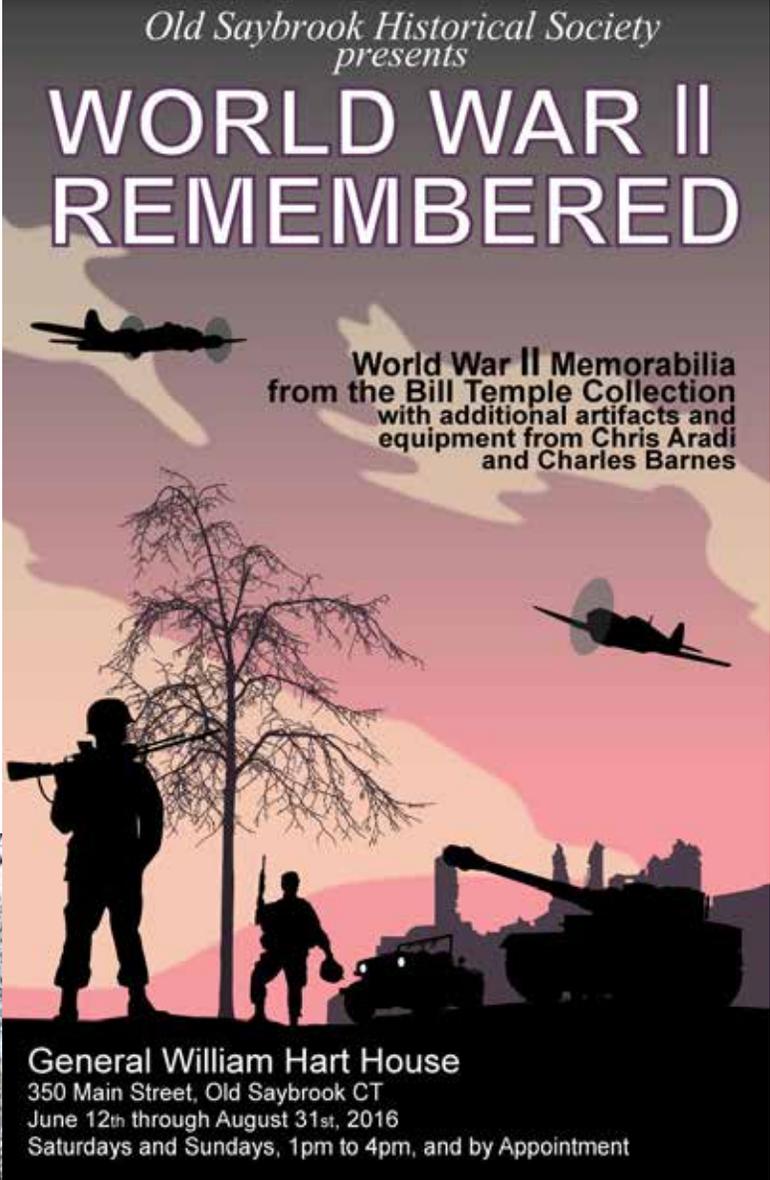
World War II Hits Main Street

It may appear that World War II has arrived on Main Street, Old Saybrook on June 12 when the Historical Society begins its busy summer season by commemorating this historic event.

Beginning at noon and remaining the rest of the afternoon, a military encampment will be in place on the Hart House campus with military vehicles, a tent, gear, and several knowledgeable, friendly reenactors who will gladly discuss and share information about the items and activities that they will have on display. Our thanks to Chris Eradi and Charles Barnes for their many valuable contributions.

At 3 that afternoon, next door at the Grace Episcopal Church, Rick Spencer, the popular folk singer and story teller, will use his musical talents to illustrate the war's impact on the home front and the fighting front. Rick is back by popular demand. A capacity crowd attended his performance last year, so we encourage you to arrive early.

Upon the conclusion of Rick's concert, the Historical Society will open its Exhibit Gallery where many local items related to war will be displayed from the collection of Bill Temple, along with additions from

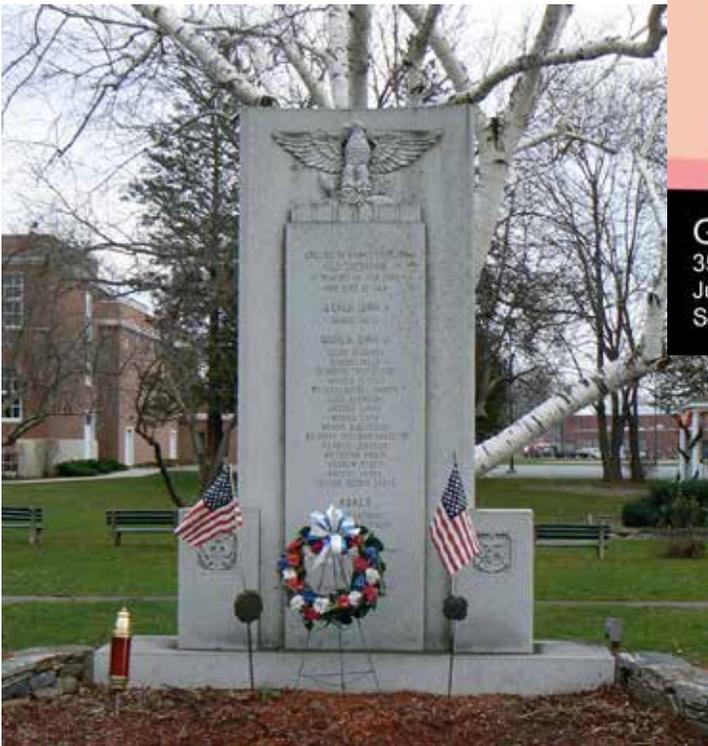


Old Saybrook Historical Society
presents

WORLD WAR II REMEMBERED

World War II Memorabilia
from the Bill Temple Collection
with additional artifacts and
equipment from Chris Aradi
and Charles Barnes

General William Hart House
350 Main Street, Old Saybrook CT
June 12th through August 31st, 2016
Saturdays and Sundays, 1pm to 4pm, and by Appointment



Old Saybrook War Memorial

others and the Historical Society. This exhibit will remain open through the summer.

Join us for a day of education and entertainment. All activities are open to the general public at no cost. Bring children and help them learn their history.

by Tedd Levy

Hosting for History: "Showcase of Homes 2016"

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 10 as the Society holds its annual Hosting for History event, this year entitled "Showcase of Homes 2016". Six Old Saybrook homes, spanning four centuries, will be featured. A pre-tour cocktail party fundraising event is scheduled for September 9.

The home tour will be held rain-or-shine from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A special boutique also will be open at the Hart House from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. While several homes are in close proximity to one another, please note that this will not be a completely walking tour.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$25; \$30 the day of the tour. They may be purchased in person, after July 20, at the Stevenson Archives Building, Thursdays between 9 a.m. and noon.

Tickets may also be purchased by mail. Checks should be made out to "Old Saybrook Historical Society" and sent to the Old Saybrook Historical Society, P.O. Box 4, Old Saybrook CT 06475. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



The former Black Horse Tavern in North Cove is one of the historic homes to be opened for the tour. (Photo by Bill Roberts)

Orders received by September 1 will be mailed. After that date, tickets will be held for pick-up on the day of the event at the Stevenson Archives Building (rear of Hart House, 350 Main Street, Old Saybrook).

The pre-tour cocktail party, hosted by Jase and Alice Cunniff, will be held Friday, September 9, at their 372 Maple Avenue home, in the lovely Knollwood section of Old Saybrook. This event is sponsored by Hadass and Matthew Rubin.

Tickets for the party are \$100 per person and numbers are limited. Cocktails, wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Call early to reserve your spot.

In addition to Hadass and Matthew Rubin, early sponsors include John Aldi, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Saybrook Country Barn, with more to come.

For updates, please check our website, saybrookhistory.org, or call (860) 395-1635.

*Donna DiBella, Chair
Ways and Means Committee*

Liz Putnam Receives Top Honor from Wilderness Society



Liz Putnam (Photo courtesy of the Wilderness Society)

The Wilderness Society, a leading conservation organization working to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places, presented Liz Putnam, founder of the Student Conservation Association, with its Robert Marshall Award February 24.

The award is the organization's highest honor bestowed on one person each year who has never held public office but has had notable influence upon conservation and the fostering of an American

land ethic.

In addition to her conservation work, Liz is a 11th-generation descendant of Gen. William Hart and a faithful

member and supporter of the Old Saybrook Historical Society.

She first explored the idea of a student conservation corps in 1953 as a college student. For a project at Vassar College, she outlined a service program modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was created during the Great Depression. She soon put the idea into action, enlisting student volunteers to assist with the upkeep of U.S. national parks and public spaces, starting in 1957. Today, the Student Conservation Association is a fixture in the American conservation movement and has welcomed more than 80,000 participants since its creation.

"Liz is an inspiration to all of us," said Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society. "She has led the largest youth effort in the nation. As an enduring model, the Student Conservation Association has sparked the creation of similar youth conservation programs over the years."

In 2010, she became the first conservationist to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal – the nation's second-highest civilian award.

Local History Becomes a Part of Students' Study of U.S. History

On a cloudy, blustery April day, the Old Saybrook High School American Studies class of Meghan Payne and Gretchen Bushnell walked to the Frank Stevenson Archives. Juniors were studying World War II and had come to investigate Old Saybrook's support of the war effort and its impact on the community. The arrival of the class represented an important step in the goal of the Society to build a closer partnership with the school community, allowing our rich historic resources to help students develop a sense of place and a connection in the community in which they live and go to school.

The students were welcomed by three excited former educators, now serving as volunteers to the Society: Jean Golicz and Henrietta Mountz, retired social studies teachers, and Teddi Kopcha, a retired school administrator. The students' presence in the Archives marked the culmination of months of research and planning by the volunteers. After meeting with Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Amity Goss, presentations regarding the Society's collections were made to the middle- and high-school teacher, outlining the possible ways local history could be incorporated into the study of U.S. history.

The visit began with a tour of the document storage room. Students viewed a display of artifacts and documents related to World War II including: editions of Deep River's New Era newspaper; a wartime newsletter, "Saybrook Sez," sponsored by the First Congregational Church; 1940s editions of the high-school yearbook, The Millstone; ration books and a trunk belonging to Mary Barnes, a local member of the Women's Army



Henrietta Mountz, left, Jean Golicz and Teddi Kopcha. (Photos by Bill Roberts)



The Society's collections include local publications, including Deep River's New Era.

Corps, who had been stationed in the Philippines, containing letters, military insignia and mementos.

In the main room of the Archives, students were divided into three groups, each with a different inquiry to investigate regarding the war effort: what human or material resources did Old Saybrook contribute, and in what ways were the personal liberties of residents restricted.

Students examined an Honor Roll listing those who served and a plaque honoring those killed. They read articles about a salvage drive organized by the senior class and student "Victory Farm Volunteers." They read about sugar, gas, tire and meat rationing, black-out and dim-out drills and air-raid instructions.

A letter from Mary Barnes mentioning confusion over which military and civilian personnel should be authorized to receive restricted military information was reminiscent of the current controversy over Hillary Clinton's emails as Secretary of State.

After enjoying lunch donated by Fiore Pizza at the First Congregational Church, the students returned to the Archives. They were asked to consider the extent to which their town's history was representative of the larger historical context of the war, as well as which artifacts the Society should display in its June World War II exhibit. They enthusiastically recommended Mary Barnes' trunk and articles from the New Era.

We're hopeful that the social studies teachers and their students will use our collections to investigate many big historical events in which the Old Saybrook community played an important role.

By Henrietta Mountz

Hart House's Interiors Get Newly Covered



"Sally's Room" after.

We repaired and painted eight Hart House rooms this winter. This included the Welcome Center, Pantry, Dining Room, Winthrop Room annex, Office, "Sally's Room," two attic storage rooms. The Dudley Room ceiling and a hallway ceiling outside the office were also painted.

Major repair work and painting included the

Winthrop Room annex, Sally's Room and the Dining Room.

Work began January 18 as I stripped the attic storage room. T&M Painting started its work January 20 and finished February 24.

*By Ed Armstrong
Facilities Manager*

Spring Sprung in the Hart House Gardens

Spring is in the air, the Hart House Garden has daffodils and narcissus bursting with bright yellow flowers. We are all busy cleaning up twigs, branches and other winter debris deposited by the March winds.

Horticulturalist Anu Koiv is carefully uncovering tiny rue anemone and white hepatica, among other spring ephemerals found in the Marianne Pfeiffer Wildflower Garden. Herbalist Bonnie Penders will soon be planting the new "Teaching Garden" for use with school groups. This is a focused project to interest elementary school students and others to learn the importance of a "kitchen garden" in Colonial life.

Bonnie will also replant the enlarged "Donation" herb garden that last summer weekly provided abundant amounts of fresh parsley, oregano, basil, chives, rosemary, leeks, thyme, sage and dill to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. These herbs were used by volunteer cooks at the First Church of Christ, our next

Joan & Bob Wendler: Garden Work Well Done

Long-time herbalist Joan Wendler is hanging up her garden gloves after many years of tending the herbs in the Hart House gardens.

Joan, a generous volunteer and a former television talk-show host, used her love of herbs to grow a colonial herb garden and her communication skills to create show-and-tell classes for Old Saybrook school children on the importance of herbs in early American times.

Her husband, Bob Wendler, the well-known, respected Connecticut architect (think the beautiful New Haven Shubert Theatre renovation, as well as the Historical Society's Exhibit Gallery), also is leaving the garden after several years of gardening as a hobby. He redesigned and planted the Thayer Garden using just two classics, boxwood and sage, creating an impressive entrance to the exhibit gallery.

Thank you, Joan and Bob, for all you have done to keep the gardens beautiful and a real place for reflection on colonial life. Their fellow gardeners (and the gardens) will miss them, their contributions and always bright outlook.

*By Linda Kinsella
Gardens & Grounds*



Joan Wendler at work on the Hart House Gardens.

door neighbor, to prepare free meals for those in need.

Sherry Eldridge, Bev Kegler, Edna Haagensen, Joanne Goduti, Ed Armstrong, Bonnie Penders and Anu Koiv, all experienced gardeners, work with students and other volunteers to keep the gardens looking top-notch.

If you are interested in becoming a Hart House Gardener, (whether you are new to gardening or an old hand) please contact me, at 860-399-6263. We meet Thursdays from 9 to noon.

*By Linda Kinsella
Gardens & Grounds*

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Elizabeth Allen Portrait Restored



Noted restorationist Joseph Marreis with the newly restored portrait of the Society's Elizabeth (Hart) Allen, a grand-daughter of Gen. William Hart.



The painting, which is displayed in the Hart House, in its before-and-after states. (Photos by Bill Roberts and Joseph Marreis)

Chalker Family Artifact Donation

Oliver "Skip" Chalker donated an hourglass that had been in his family for at least 250 years. It originally belonged to the first Oliver Chalker, who fought in the Revolutionary War and, along with his



Oliver "Skip" Chalker (Photo by Diane Hoyt)

brother Moses, bought Chalker Beach.

Skip is descended from Alexander Chalker, one of the founders of Saybrook Colony, and is ninth great-grandson to Lion Gardner, as well as at least five other founders of the colony. He grew up in Old Saybrook, but his father's work took them from the town to New Hampshire, Minnesota and California. That was the first time nearly 350 years that his family's branch left Old Saybrook.

We are honored that he has donated this artifact to the Society. The only question left is: "Where did the sand come from?"

By Diane Hoyt

Administrative Assistant, Archives

All Martha Soper Library Books Re-indexed

Archives volunteers are busy re-indexing all the books in the Martha Soper Library. You can now look up a book on the computer and find out exactly where it is on the shelf.

We have finally caught up on all of the new items that have come into the library in terms of indexing them and putting them in display boxes, so that they are accessible to the public.

By Gregory Thompson
Society Archivist



The Old Saybrook Historical Society

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Mark Your Calendars

May 26 – Chapman Lecture: Will Siss will discuss the long history of making beer in Connecticut. There will be sample tastings. Mr. Siss is a columnist for the Waterbury Republican-American, has appeared on numerous radio and television programs, and is the author of “Connecticut Beers: A History of Nutmeg State Brewing.” Firemen’s Field Banquet Hall (across from Pasta Vita). Admission \$5. Must be 21 years old.

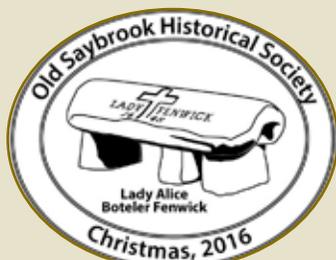
June 4 – Antiques Sale & Appraisal Day. Karen Emack-Dolson, Peter Dolson, and others.

June 12 – “Remembering World War II”. From noon, military encampment on Hart House campus. 3 pm - Rick Spencer’s “Songs of WWII” program at Grace Episcopal Church. Opening of WWII exhibit at HH Gallery follows. See page 3 for details.

September 10 – Hosting for History: “Showcase of Homes 2016”. 10 am to 4 pm. Ticketed event. Also, Sept. 9 pretour cocktail party. See page 3 for details.



Rick Spencer performs “Songs of World War II” June 12.



This year’s ornament, designed by J.H. Torrance Downes, featuring Lady Fenwick’s gravestone will soon be available for sale at \$12 via the Society and at Saybrook Hardware.

www.saybrookhistory.org

