

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

SPRING 2009NEWSLETTER

Ruth Callander House Museum, 492 Main St.., Portland, CT., 06480, Tel: 860-342-5455 www. PortlandHistSoc.Org

HISTORIC HOMES IN JEOPARDY

A new mixed use development has been planned for the former Elmcrest Hospital site at Marlborough and Main Streets. The project known as Portland Town Place will be submitted to town commissions shortly. The project would contain a mix of retail, office and residential space. The plan shows 10 total buildings. Town Place would contain a 65000 sq. ft. grocery store and other buildings such as a residential tower building.

Thirty-four structures are in **danger of demolition** including 3 antique houses in a unique setting. These 3 antique houses are the last of a small group of relatively elaborate structures to have been built near the eastern end of Marlborough Street during the 19th century.

"The Hart/Jarvis House, built in 1829-30, is an impressive Greek Revival Temple form with flanking wings set on a cut brownstone foundation. Elizabeth Hart Jarvis was the daughter of Col. Richard W. Hart of Hartford and Saybrook. In 1825, she married Rev. William Jarvis and they moved to Portland where he became pastor of the Trinity Episcopal Church. In 1851, the house was sold to Erastus Brainerd, one of Portland's most successful quarry owners, remaining in that family for 48 years. Comparable in some respects to Middletown's Samuel Russell House, this building embodies architectural styling rarely found in a community the size of Portland. With its associations with prominent citizens of the town, it is an important part of Portland's heritage."

"Erastus Brainerd, Jr. House was probably built around 1852. It is two stories, built of stuccoed brownstone on a brownstone foundation in a predominantly Italianate style. The Revival style front entry porch of this house displays fluted columns on modified floral urns with ogee arched decorative brackets supporting a balustraded roof. Erastus Brainerd, Jr. may have chosen this site to build his house because his father had recently purchased the Hart-Jarvis House to the west. The elder Brainerd had



The Hart/Jarvis House

founded the Brainerd Quarry Company, and young Brainerd was one of its leading members. This building was probably designed by New Haven architect Henry Austin. The Erastus Brainerd house is one of the more elaborate historic houses built in the mid-19th century in Portland, it stands today as a succinct statement of the Brainerd family's success and prominence in the town."

"The John H Sage House, a 2 1/2 story Queen Anne style structure, was built in 1884 by a descendant of Charles H. Sage, who served as Judge of Probate during most of the mid 1800s. John H. Sage gained national prominence as an ornithologist and maintained one of the largest collections in the State of Connecticut in this house. The John H. Sage House is one of the better preserved Queen Anne style homes remaining in Portland. The building displays the picturesque, asymmetrical qualities normally associated with the Queen Anne mode in both its massing and detailing."

Architectural information from <u>The History and Architecture of Portland</u> by Loether, Porteus and Sherrow, 1980, where more complete descriptions may be found.

Please watch the Rivereast News Bulletin for notification of commission hearings regarding actions to be taken by developers.

MEMBERSHIP DUES . . .

We've listed below **paid-up members** as of March for the current year. If you're **not** listed below, check the mailing label on this Newsletter. If "life" appears, your life membership has been paid. If "2009" (or later) appears, you have paid your dues for this year. Otherwise, the last year for which we have received dues is shown.

The Society needs you as a contributing member. Not only financially, but also with your help and knowledge of Portland's past. Dues: (Individual \$10; family \$20; lifetime \$250) should be mailed to: Portland Historical Society, Inc., P.O.Box 98, Portland, CT, 06480. Questions? Call me, Bill Frisbie, 860-342-0303.

Dorothy J. Ahlberg Alan & Joan Anderson Darren D. Anderson Marion Anderson Suzanne A. Anderson Angela's Fine Jewelry Patricia S. Aresco Karen Baker Jane O Bartolotta Sandy Bourret Margaret W. Brainard Frank Brainerd Harriet & Peter Bransfield Colleen M. Brede Kathleen & George Brede Grace E. Broberg Jean & Bill Bronson Marion Basiel Bryan Dr./Mrs. Gerald Burke Mary Anne Cannon Barbara Chapman Sandra Chiasson Barbara Clark Richard Cotter Yvonne Cozzi Lucille C. Cramer Dr/Mrs D.S.F. Crowther Janis M. Cummer Denis Cunningham Linda Cunningham Jan & Dan Davis Carol M. DeBerry John & Susan Decina Norma DeGraff John & Bernadette Dillon Frances DiNatale Mary Ann Dolan Walter & Vivian Dower Isabel Downing Herbert Duey Elizabeth P. Ellsworth Frances M/Deborah Ellsworth Dr Joseph & Estelle Epstein Jeff & Fiona Fine Mark J. Finkelstein

Marguerite & David Flanders Mary H. Flood Marshall V. Fogelmark Myron and Jane Foster Faith Fraulino family Ruth S. Freeburg Bill & Phyllis Frisbie Claire L. Frisbie Colby Gauthier Myrna G. Geiges George & Carol Gilbert John Gilbert Richard & Lynn Gildersleeve Richard O. Gildersleeve Alfred/Barbara GildersleeveJr. Oliver DeP. Gildersleeve Jr. Michael & Marra Giuliano Beatrice Goodrich Donald W. Goodrich John F. Gotta Allen & Ruth Grover Mrs. David T. Guernsey Randy & Joan Guilmette Romanie Gussenhoven Elsie M. Hale George & Judy Hale Robert A. Hale Richard & Jean Harmon Kerry/Doris SherrowHeidenis Terrance J. Hettrick Kathleen Burr & Dorian Hill Stephen & Jeanette Hodge Joan B. Hughes Beattie Hummel MaryJane Jackson Robert L. Jackson Charles B. Johnson George & Carolyn Johnson Hazel S. Johnson Lynne D. Johnson Robert & Christiane Johnson Thomas G. Johnson Ivar & Carol Jozus

Denise Katelev

Anne Kavanaugh

Francis J. Kazeroid Jean Kelsev Marie Keser Stephen & Nancy Kinsella Chad (Charles H.) Kinzel Paris J.Kollias Mrs. Roselies Kutz Karen Labbadia Thomas F. & Susan R. Ladny Gail & Jim Landry Judy & Richard Lane Dr. Joseph Lantos family Bill and Evelyn Larson Harold & Sue Larson Mr./Mrs. Charles J. Larson George and Elaine Law Cheryl Lee & Family Robert C. Lindquist Marty Lineen Joanne A. Luppi Martha Lutecki Thomas F. & Susan Malecky Donald R. Markham Donna & Bill Marlow Mr & Mrs William J. McBrien Nancy L. McBrien Jim/Martha McCabe Janice McCormick Dylan Stephen McDougall Heather McDougall Robert W. McDougall Ruth J. McGowan Beverly W. Merk William R. Muller Caroline D. Murray Virginia R. Natalie Beverly C. Newberg Walter A. Olsen Mrs. Edith Omicioli Mr/ Mrs Edward Organek John & Diane Otterbein Ralph Paley Kathryn Paredez Ethel Grower Peltz

William & Virginia Perruccio

Ernest & Phyllis Peterson John & Marlene Peterson Wm & Paula Petzold Sal J. Pitruzzello Ethel Csere Puglisi Jim & Susan Rau Lucile Chapman Richards Hazel Robinson Rebecca G. Robinson Howard & Sari Rosenbaum Edward A. Rousseau Harriet/Maureen/Wm Sanborn James Sarbaugh William D. Schneck John H. Schufer Mr/ Mrs. Peter P. Scianna Irene Scott C. Joseph Seiferman Ann Gildersleeve Sloan Ellen Squier Robert C. Stancliff Michael A. Stemmler P. Jane & Jack Sterry Joan Stettbacher, PhD Bill and Chris Sullivan Gene and Shirley Sullivan Hildur Sullivan John/Eileen Sullivan Jane E. Sweet Donald A. Taylor Loraine B. Taylor Peggy Tierney Bruce & Karen Tyler May Upjohn Barbara B. Valk Richard Van Steenbergen Norma L. Werdelin Kenneth & Jean Whatmore Lois Whealey family Mr/Mrs Wm. Blunt White Alfreda B. Wilson George/Leora Wilson Eunice Wiseman Regina Woltmann Susan Alyson Young

PRESIDENT'S LETTER . . .

Happy Spring! We are looking forward to the spring and blossoms in the <u>Betty Keser Scott Garden</u> at the Ruth Callander House. To celebrate we plan to install a new sign calling attention to the garden. The Portland Garden Club has kindly offered a donation toward its purchase.

We had a terrific year at the **Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History**. Sue Anderson did a tremendous job and spent countless hours researching **Portland's Farms** and interviewing farmers and relatives, acquiring massive amounts of information and photographs, and many artifacts that have been displayed through the year. This display brought a record attendance to the Museum, hundreds of visitors, many of whom came specifically for the farm topic. Our inventory collection, thanks to this exhibit information, is vastly enlarged. Sue plans a book of the compiled material later this year and a second calendar of farm photographs for 2010.

Tom Ladny again provided his terrific historic model trains and layout for our <u>Christmas Exhibit</u>. This year he also provided toy farms complete with many small animals and farmers throughout the layout. His many hours of collection, construction and installation help make the Holiday Exhibit special for young and old alike. Thanks to a number of other volunteers who decorated and helped spread holiday spirit throughout the Museum for <u>Christmas on the Farm</u>.

Our **Annual Meeting** was changed to its new date in January this year with the implementation of the new bylaws passed last year. New officers were elected and installed, and volunteer awards were presented to Marie Keser for her many years and hours of inventory work, Sue Anderson for her farm project work, and Martha Lutecki for her years of contribution as president. New officers are First VP Sue Anderson, Second VP Martha Lutecki, Recording Secretary Ruth Freeburg, Corresponding Secretary Linda Cunningham, Treasurer Jim McCabe, Directors Gene Sullivan, Debbie Ellsworth and Jim Rau. Thank you to all our returning board members and to Joan Guilmette who has retired from the board for her years of service and work on the bylaws rewrite. Welcome to Debbie Ellsworth who has joined the board. An enjoyable presentation by Herb Duey on Mining in Connecticut, followed the meeting.

Speaking of <u>Programs</u>, Regina Woltmann has again come up with a super lineup for 2009. Take a look at the <u>Calendar</u> on the back of this newsletter and post it so you don't miss these great upcoming selections. Thanks to Regina for consistently seeking out excellent programs year after year.

Spring brings the usual flurry of activity in the Museum and outside with the <u>13th Annual Town-Wide</u> <u>Tag Sale</u>. The committee has met, planning and work have begun for another exciting day, May 9th. See pages 4-5 for more information.

This Spring brings a brand new event courtesy of Sue Anderson with her wonderful ideas. Her **Spring Tea April 26th** is sure to be a spectacular event at St. Clements Castle including hats, jewelry and refreshments for all. Make a date to join us, see pages 6-7.



Sewing shade-grown tobacco leaves to lath for hanging in the shed to dry, 1971.

Elsie Hale Collection

Remember it's a new year and your **2009 Member-ship** is very important to the Society's projects. We're excited by all the letters and email we receive from so many places in the country. All your gifts of information, artifacts and time keep the society alive. Of note, 26 of our memberships are from out-of-state residents, another 18 are Connecticut residents outside of Portland, all from people anxious to remain in contact with Portland's people and its history.

Thank you to all our terrific volunteers who keep the Society and Museum functioning and make all of our events successful every year.

Claire Frisbie 860-335-8581

13th ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Our Checklist - How can YOU help?

*delineates areas *most* in need of volunteers



- 1.* Solicit Sponsor Ads for Map need coordinator
- 2.* Publicity signups, donations of goods, etc.
- 3. Supply sign-up sheets to several locations
- 4. Print and send Tag Sale Hints to participants Sharon Bergman and Darren Anderson
- 5. Organize and print map Frisbies and Bob McDougall
- 6. Construct/repair Signs and Sign poles Pat Crowther
- 7.* Call members for donations to Bake Sale (about 15 people)
- 8.* Obtain hot dogs, beverages, etc. for food sale
- 9.* Receive donated items at Callander House, Saturday April 18, 25, and May 2, 9-11 AM.
- 10.* Deliver and pick up Tag Sale sign poles (about 20 people)
- 11.* Set up Society Tag Sale at Callander House garage and Grange
- 12.* On the big day 15 to 20 tag sale workers for the Callander House garage and Hemlock Grange; cooks, helpers and bake sale workers (10) for the Grange; Traffic directors at both sales
- 13.* Transfer left-over treasures to garage from Grange at 2:30 pm (3 or 4 people)



Last year, this annual fundraiser made \$5,600 for the Society's museum and programs.

To volunteer call: Eleanor Crowther 342-2907 Chris Sullivan 342-4105 Ruth Freeburg 342-3636

Please join us at a Tag Sale meeting: Tuesday, March 18 3:00 pm

13th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale Sponsored by The Portland Historical Society, Inc.

Benefiting the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

PLAN A TAG SALE Saturday, May 9th 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:

- The Historical Society will help to promote your Tag Sale.
- Your contributions will help fund Historical Society Museum.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL PROVIDE:

- **►** Location Maps with sale item types
- **◆**Advertising **◆**Tag Sale Hints
 - **◆**House Marker Sign

Option	How it works:	Rec'd by Society by April 11th	Rec'd by Society Apr. 12 - 25 <u>deadline</u>	
1.	Have a sale at your own home or neighborhood for your benefit.	\$20.	\$25.	
or 2.	Tailgate your tag sale at Hemlock Grange parking area, jct. Rte. 17 & Sage Hollow Rd	\$20.	\$25.	
or 3.	Donate items to benefit the Historical Society tag sales at Hemlock Grange and Callander House. (No clothing, textbooks, TV's or unwieldy items, please.)	Items may be delivered to the Society Saturdays, April 18, 25, & May 2 at Callander House garage, 492 Main St. from 9-11 AM. Pickup also available. Call 342-3636.		

		SO BAKE & TAG SALES with coffee, soda & hot dogs at Hemlock Grange, 17 Sage Hollow Road on Tag Sale Day.				<i>,</i>
	•	Clip and mail to Portland Historical So Make checks payable	ciety Tag Sale,	P. O. Box 98, Por		•
~						

Contact Information:	Options (Please check all that apply)	BY	April
Name:		April 11	12 - 25
Sale Address:	☐ Home sale	\$20.	\$25.
Phone:	☐ Tailgate at Grange	\$20.	\$25.
Will you have Tag Sale if it rains? Yes □ No □	Items (circle, list): toys/tools/misc./		
will you have rag sale if it fams: Tes D No D			

NOTES . . .

Great Tempest

1717 - On Feb. 17th a great snow and tempest covered doors and windows so people went outside through chamber (second story) windows. (Wm Van Beynum)

Museum Docents

Docenting is fun, interesting and easy. Help needed 1st Sunday of every month. Call Gene at 342-0306.

Highschool Yearbooks

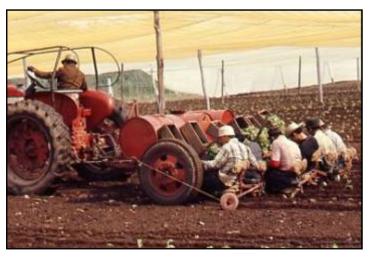
The Society's collection of Yearbooks needs many additions to be complete for all years. If you have a yearbook you would like to donate, please contact the Society at PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com or call 860-342-0303. Several people have also contacted the society hoping to borrow or purchase various editions.

New Penholders

Walter Dower has lent his fine craftsmanship to another society product. He has created mahogany penholders which come with a fine cross style pen. They are priced at \$12 and may be purchased by contacting Sue Anderson at 860-342-0433.

Museum Exhibits

The Museum Exhibits Committee is working on the new Spring Exhibit. To add to the most recent Farm Exhibit, they are presently investigating a collection of antique tools, a large collection of photographs on tobacco growing at the Hale and Goodrich Farms provided by Elsie Hale, and floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters as documented in the Museum's collection. Watch for newspaper announcements and future newsletter updates for more information.



Tobacco setter, Strickland Street, 1963. Elsie Hale Collection

SPRING TEA PLANNED

On April 26, 2009, the Society will present a **Spring Tea** from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Prince Edward Ballroom at Saint Clements Castle on 1931 Portland Cobalt Road in Portland. The tea will feature the **Vintage Hat** program, "**Under Every Great Hat is a Great Woman**" by Barbara Cubanski as well as a **Jewelry Sale** of the items that have been donated to the Society.

Barbara Cubanski has a collection of 85 hats dating back to the time when women wouldn't be seen in public without a hat. She will have about 20 hats on display; each with a special story to tell. She will also showcase a feathered hat, the same hat that Lauren Bacall wore on the cover of Vogue Magazine in 1947. Cubanski is the former owner of *Your Closet to Mine* in Colchester. Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite hat to the tea!

At the jewelry sale, you'll find an array of beautiful vintage costume, designer, and fashion jewelry including signed and unsigned necklaces, bracelets, rings, brooches, pins, earrings, watches, and some men's and children's jewelry. Payment for jewelry purchases must be made by check or cash, no credit cards will be accepted.

Refreshments, consisting of an assortment of tasty sweets, tea, coffee, and iced tea, will be served and door prizes will be offered.

Admission is \$12 per person and includes a \$2 coupon off jewelry purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please no children under the age of eight. Advance tickets can be purchased by mailing the order form located elsewhere in this newsletter or by calling Sue, 342-0433, Mary Ann, 342-0654, or Marie, 342-2847. Space is limited so be sure to place your order for tickets, today!

Ticket proceeds will benefit the programs of the Portland Historical Society and the operation of the Society's Museum. If you would like to help with this event or donate any jewelry items, please call Sue Anderson at 342-0433. (See next page to order tickets.)

The Portland Historical Society

Cordially invites you to attend a Spring Tea featuring the

Vintage Hat program, "Under Every Great Hat is a Great Woman" by Barbara Cubanski of Colchester.

We will also offer a Vintage Jewelry Sale of the items that have been donated to the Society.



Sunday, April 26th

2 to 4 p.m.

St Clements Castle, 1931 Portland Cobalt Road, Portland, CT

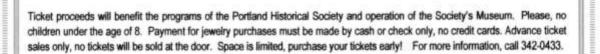
\$12 per person (includes a \$2 coupon off jewelry purchases totaling \$10 or more)

Coffee, tea, iced tea, and an assortment of tasty desserts will be served

Door prizes will be offered

More information about the event:

Barbara will have about 20 hats on display from her 1950s vintage collection; each with a special story to tell. Following her program, ladies in the audience will be invited to try on and model her hats. Before and after our featured program, guests may purchase items from the Society's vintage jewelry collection and other products. Everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite hat!



Spring Tea

Name:__

Address:____

Number of Tickets:_

X \$12.00 each Total Amount Enclosed for Tickets

Make check payable to: The Portland Historical Society

Mail ficket request to: Portland Historical Society, P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT. 06480-0098

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your tickets mailed to you; otherwise, we will hold your tickets at the door

CALLANDER HOUSE CUPBOARD

2009Calendar - The Farms of Portland\$8
Portland Scenes Tile \$12 Mug \$9.50
Mahogany Penholder with Pen\$12
Portland Recipes and Reflections\$8
Letters to Harry by Pru Taylor and TJ Palmer\$25
Coloring & Activity Book of Portland History\$3.50
Images of Portland by Bob McDougall\$20
St. Clements by Pru Taylor and TJ Palmer\$15
Previous Year Calendars\$5
Antique Pictures Magnets \$2 ea, 3/\$5, set 20/\$30
Portland Scenes Notepad (50 pgs., 5 scenes) 2/\$3
Portland Scenes Tea Towel\$5
Meshomasic Forest Video by John LeShane\$3
Callander House Stoneware Jar\$25
Portland Scenes/Floral Notecards \$3, 2/\$5, 5/\$10

Please include \$2 shipping per \$10 of order Purchases help toward Society projects Call 860-342-0433 to order or mail to: Portland Historical Society, PO Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

NEWSLETTER - Phyllis, Bill and Claire Frisbie, 3-14-09

<u>Newsletter!</u>

Deborah Ellsworth James Rau Eugene Sullivan

DIKECLOKS

President - Claire Frisbie Ist Vice President - Susanne Anderson 2nd Vice President - Martha Lutecki Recording Secretary - Ruth Freeburg Corresponding Secretary - Linda Cunningham Treasurer - James McCabe

> 7000 ROCIELK OFFICERS

APPLICATION ENCLOSED!
13TH ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE

OON-PROFIT ORG.

V.S.POSTAGE
PORTAIN
P

Box 98, Portland, CT 06480



