Madison Historical Society

Spring 2017

Historical Happenings

UPCOMING EVENTS

CT OPEN HOUSE DAY
Saturday, June 10
11 am to 4 pm
Allis-Bushnell House
Free Guided Tours / Refreshments

PAINT NIGHT WITH VISTA
Wednesday, June 21
6 - 7:30 pm
Allis-Bushnell House
Tickets: $35 each

TOUR OF REMARKABLE HOMES
Sunday, June 25
11 am to 4 pm
Tour of six private residences
Advance Tickets: $35 each

OVER HERE, OVER THERE
WWI Exhibition
Lee's Academy
11 am to 4 pm
Saturdays through November
Free Admission

MHS Launches Centennial Campaign: Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future

How might you celebrate your hundredth birthday? Well, if you were the Madison Historical Society, you'd plan a yearlong commemoration featuring pop-up exhibitions, parties, a parade, and more. If you were Laura Becker, dedicated MHS trustee and development chair, you'd plan an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise $100,000 by year's end.

One of the best ways you can join our party is to help us preserve our community's legacy for future generations. Please make a gift of any amount--just as our predecessors did a century ago. You already know that the society was founded in 1917 by a committed group of town residents intent on protecting and preserving Madison's past for future generations. You know that early members worked diligently to restore the Allis-Bushnell House and to fill it with treasures for citizens, scholars, and visitors to enjoy. You know that, in brand-new twenty-first century ways, the society continues to present Madison's rich and absorbing history.

Throughout the year, the MHS strives to make history personal, intimate, and meaningful through programs and events that enhance understanding of Madison's past and its connection to the present. It organizes well-researched and engaging exhibitions on local events and key figures; maintains important artifacts; preserves and presents historic properties; and runs educational programs for children and adults.

Now, in 2017, the goal of the Centennial Campaign is to secure a strong future for the MHS. Centennial funds will allow us to develop even more compelling ways to present our town history to citizens and to our many visitors. During the months ahead, we ask you to consider making a meaningful financial investment in supporting our mission. With your help, we will remain a vibrant civic organization that creates innovative and engaging programs and events to fulfill our mission.

As we celebrate our centennial and reflect on the accomplishments of our first hundred years, the MHS is committed to remaining a vital and essential institution in the community. To ensure our existence for at least another century, we hope we can count on you for financial support.

To make a donation, please visit www.madisonhistory.org or contact the office directly at 203.245.4567. We welcome you to make a tax-deductible gift to our Centennial Fund at any time throughout the year. You can use our easy, secure online payment option or mail a check directly to PO Box 17, Madison, CT 06443. Please make your check payable to MHS. If you would like to include the MHS in your bequests or estate planning, please contact us at 203.245.4567 to begin a conversation. Thank you!

STAR-SPANGLED CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Madison Historical Society is preparing to take over the town during the Fourth of July week as part of its yearlong centennial celebration. Vintage photographs of Madison and MHS collection items will be on display in storefronts on the Boston Post Road. The Madison Exchange Club has graciously asked the MHS to serve as Grand Marshal of the July 4th parade. Additionally, our centennial will be honored at the Concert on the Green with musical selections from the past 100 years.

R. J. Julia Booksellers will help the Madison Historical Society celebrate this milestone by featuring a "day of shopping" on Saturday, July 1. The MHS will receive 15% of any purchases made by shoppers who name the MHS as the recipient of the funds. (Purchases of event tickets and gift cards are not included in this program.)

Signs at the store registers will read "Welcome, friends of the Madison Historical Society." Please be sure to mention Madison Historical Society when making your purchase. So, tell all your friends and family to bring their summer reading list to Madison's remarkable bookstore on Saturday, July 1.

MHS HISTORY DAYS INSPIRE YOUNG LEARNERS

The MHS hosted more than 300 Madison students in April. Early in the month, second-grade students from the town's three public elementary schools as well as Our Lady of Mercy School braved the driving rain to take part in programs at the Deacon John Grave House, the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, and the First Congregational Church. We are grateful for their collaboration in our collective efforts to develop meaningful educational experiences for youngsters.

The end of the month brought the older classes. Fifth-grade students from Brown School toured the commemorative WWI exhibit, learned about famed Madison resident Cornelius Bushnell and the USS *Monitor*, and explored the immigrant experience and voting rights in a mock town hall meeting.

MHS history-based school programs provide age-appropriate, hands-on, and interactive components that encourage student engagement. Each learner returns to the classroom with a greater understanding of the history of Madison. We are thankful for the extraordinary effort and dedication of education co-chairs Connie Piccione and Mary Ouimet. Drawing upon their expertise as longtime Madison educators, they have jointly created and managed these programs for ten years.

2016 ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

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LEADERSHIP $250 - $499

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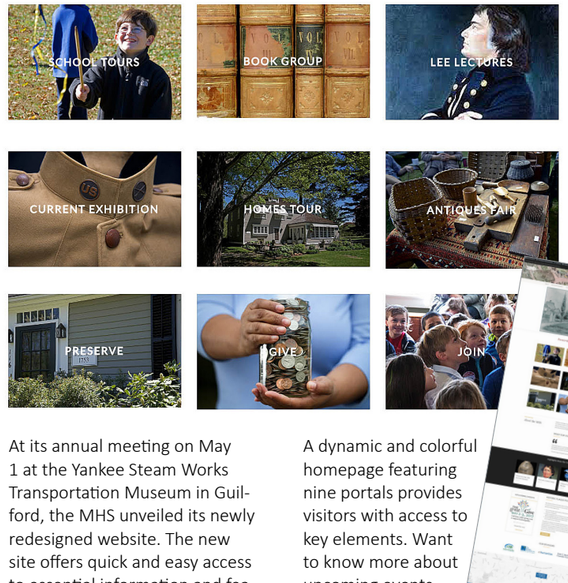
ANNUAL HOMES TOUR IS SUNDAY, JUNE 25

The Fifth Annual Tour of Remarkable Homes, to be held on Sunday, June 25, from 11 am to 4 pm, will feature six distinctive Madison residences. A breathtaking 5,400-square-foot home overlooking Long Island Sound, an historic beach cottage, and a stylish condominium are among the homes on view this year. Reserve your tickets online or call the MHS office for additional details. You won't want to miss this opportunity to tour these truly unique properties.

MHS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE...



At its annual meeting on May 1 at the Yankee Steam Works Transportation Museum in Guilford, the MHS unveiled its newly redesigned website. The new site offers quick and easy access to essential information and features. Funding for this ambitious project was generously provided by a grant from the Erwin C. Bauer Charitable Trust.

A dynamic and colorful homepage featuring nine portals provides visitors with access to key elements. Want to know more about upcoming events or how to make a donation? Simply click on the relevant portal, and you're swiftly taken to the requested page. Interested in learning about Madison's past? Click on the "Discover" drop-down menu from the top toolbar to learn about key people, places, and events. If you'd like to visit or learn more about one of our historic properties, click the "Visit" tab for information on the Allis-Bushnell House, Lee's Academy, and the Smallpox Burying Ground.

All this and much more can be found by visiting us at www.madisonhistory.org. We welcome your comments on the new site--and we look forward to hearing your ideas for how we can continue to improve it. Please be sure to update your bookmarks as the former site is no longer accessible.

...AND WELCOMES NEW BOARD PRESIDENT JIM MATTESON

After three years of service as MHS president, long-time Madison resident Rick Camp has passed the reins to board secretary, properties chair, and finance committee member Jim Matteson. In addition to supporting the preservation and development efforts of the MHS, Jim has been involved in town government for many years. He has served on numerous committees and boards, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Finance, and the Police, Town and Firemen's Pension Board.

Jim's passion for preservation can be seen in the historic home he owns with his wife Diane on Green Hill Road. They have lived in the house known as the Henry J. Munger Property since July 1, 1997. Named for the family who owned and operated a lumber and building products dealership in Madison during the 1800s and 1900s, their classic New England farmhouse has benefited from the wise and gentle stewardship of the Mattesons. One of Jim's many hobbies is making maple syrup, a practice begun by Native Americans. You'll find Jim hard at work in late February and March, tapping maple trees on his and his neighbors' properties. One of his outbuildings houses his oil-powered evaporator, where he boils down the sap. Jim sells a variety of maple syrup grades under the label Matteson's Maple Manor at Field House Farm and other locations. As a former business executive and entrepreneur, Jim brings a wealth of talent, energy, and vision to his position at the MHS.

MHS MONTHLY HISTORY BOOK GROUP

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Books are often available at the Scranton Library: call 203-245-7365 to inquire.

To register, please call 203-245-4567 or e-mail contact@madisonhistory.org. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Meetings occur every third Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Allis-Bushnell House and are led by Lyle Cubberly, Ph.D. (1lachawk@att.net)

For more information about the books, please go to the Adult Education page at www.madisonhistorical.org

June 20
The Jesuit Relations
Allan Greer

July 18
Unlikely Allies: A Playwright and a Spy Saved the American Revolution
Joel Paul

August 22
The French-Canadian Heritage in New England
Gerald Brault

September 19
40 Miles a Day on Beans and Hay: An Enlisted Soldier Fighting the Indian Wars
Don Rickey Jr.

October 17
When America First Met China: An Exotic History of Tea, Drugs and Money in the Age of Sail
Eric Jay Dolin

November 21
Fur, Fortune and Empire: The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America
Eric Jay Dolin

THE MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 5TH ANNUAL

TOUR OF REMARKABLE HOMES

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the MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1 years

Madison Historical Society
Founded in 1917
P.O. Box 17
Madison, CT 06443
203-245-4567
www.madisoncthistorical.org

MHS offices are open in the c. 1821 Lee's Academy at 14 Meetinghouse Lane on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM.

For a tour of the MHS c. 1785 National Historic Register property, the Allis-Bushnell House, call 203-245-4567.

The MHS newsletter is published quarterly.

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