



The Stratford Historical Society

# NEWSLETTER

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1981 at the METHODIST CHURCH HALL, MAIN STREET. Lincoln Sander, antique dealer and a director of the Wilton Historical Society, will present a talk entitled "The Antique World".

"The Antique World" will deal with collecting antiques, some of the pitfalls of investing in antiques, and will include time for general questions from the audience. Pictures or small objects may be brought for evaluation by Mr. Sander. If the items presented are within his range of knowledge, he will be pleased to evaluate, not necessarily appraise.

Lincoln Sander has been a collector and dealer of antiques for more than fifteen years with a specialty of furniture and decorations of the eighteenth century. He comes to us with a wealth of information and a varied background in the field of antiques. He should give us a most interesting and informative evening. Please plan to attend.

Mrs. Henry Van Gieson and her committee will again serve refreshments following the program.

NOTE: This meeting is one week earlier than our usual March meeting date. Remember! March 20 at 8:00 PM.

MEMBERSHIP Second notices have been sent to 70 members. If you have forgotten to renew your membership, please do so now. If you have renewed but received a reminder, please forgive us..and let us know.

To date, we have 438 members, including 50 Permanent members and 9 Honorary members. Attendance at our General Meetings this year has been excellent, with approximately 95 people at both the November and January meetings. This is certainly a fine representation of our membership.

Kay Moore will be available at the March 20 meeting to receive your membership renewal.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS Mrs. Judith Kurmay, our First Vice-President, has convened her committee to review the Constitution of the Society and to offer suggestions for change. If you have any suggestions which might assist her and her committee, please phone her at 378-8025.

TRIP TO NEW CANAAN The Education Committee has planned a trip to the New Canaan Historical Society on Thursday, March 26. We will tour the Costume Museum which is currently featuring clothing from the nineteenth century. (Remember Mrs. Van Loan's magnificent slides of this show in January?) Following the Costume Museum we will visit the Hanford-Silliman House (1761), the Tool Museum and Print Shop. Admission to all of the buildings is \$1.00.

Lunch has been planned at the Roger Sherman Inn where the meal is ample and prices range from \$6.00-\$8.00. Reservations are necessary.

Please call Judy Kurmay to reserve your place (378-8025). Travel will be by car pool. Everyone is welcome. Please come, it should be fun!

ANTIQUÉ SHOW, APRIL 4 and 5 Enclosed with this newsletter is one discount card giving time and place details of our 20th Antique Show. This one card will admit you and members of your family for \$1.25 each instead of the regular admission of \$1.50 each. There is no charge for children 12 and under.

One admission provides entrance for both days of the show. Save your stub for a return visit.

This paid admission on your part is yet another way for all members to contribute to our largest "money-maker" activity. The profit realized from this annual event is most necessary to meet our ever-increasing budget. If every member could attend, the financial success of our Antique Show would be greatly enhanced.

Remember that items for donation to the Show may be brought to the Museum on Tuesdays or you may call Hiram Tindall (874-1819) or Bonnie Paradise (377-2332) for pickup.

GIFT SHOP As we begin to think about the new season and the many school tours which will visit, it is fitting that I express thanks to Mrs. Florence Feher for her dedicated effort in stocking souvenir items for sale to the children. Florence proceeds with this job so quietly and efficiently that it is easy to forget that many hours and much thought are expended. Our docents offer these small items to the school groups, but it is because of Florence's efforts that there are things to sell. The Society realizes a considerable income from the sale of these various items. Again, thanks to Florence for her continued effort.

Have you any thoughts as to improving our Gift Shop in terms of adult purchasers? We welcome all ideas and interested people. Please call to express your ideas.

1981 SEASON We are busily at work preparing Judson House and the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum for the opening of our 1981 season on Wed. April 1. During the last full week of March we will welcome all volunteers to help clean, dust, polish, and re-exhibit our House following a winter of restoration work. The dates of this housecleaning are not yet established, but please call if you would like to give an hour or more to this effort. Ella McCullough (375-6203) is in charge of our cleaning committee and would appreciate as many calls as possible. Please join us in this endeavor.

EXHIBITS Einar Larson, Exhibits Chairman, announces that work is proceeding on the re-designing of the Tool exhibit in the basement of Judson House. J. Oliver Carson, Richard Blake, and William Reid have been planning, with Einar, the best way in which to exhibit our large collection of 18th century tools in order to inform the viewer and present an attractive and meaningful exhibit. While this work continues, visitors will not have access to the area.

However, members and visitors will certainly wish to plan to visit the newly exhibited "East Chamber" which will be open on April 1. Following information given in the 1761 inventory of Capt. David Judson which lists " 2 Great Wheels", "3 iron pots", " 48 bushels of corn" in this room, several members of the exhibits committee have attempted to return this room to its original use.

The exposed beams tell us that this was an unfinished area of the house most probably used for storage. In 1958, Dr. Abbott Cummings of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, told us that this area was probably used for spinning and weaving. It has been decided to move our spinning equipment to this area in order to bring about a logical juxtaposition with the weaving currently being done in the Kitchen Chamber. There will be available information about Solomon Plant, a well-known wheelwright (spinning wheel maker) in 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> cent. Stratford and also about Silas Burton, a prominent Stratford weaver of the period.

Come and see! It will be exciting!

SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS On Saturday, April 11 at Liedle's, the Stratford Rotary Club, the Stratford Jaycees and the Stratford Sterling House will host a "Salute to Volunteers", an evening dedicated to Stratfordites who volunteer countless hours to improve the quality of life in town.

We urge as many of our members as possible to reserve tickets for this occasion. There are plans to form tables for the Stratford Historical Society. Please let us know if you are interested and also send \$15.00 per ticket payable to The Stratford Rotary Club, to 3000 Main St., Stratford.

WEAVING The Weavers have received a fine table loom which they would like to put to use. However, they need a sturdy table to support the loom. This table should be no less than 22" wide and fairly heavy duty. If you have one to donate or sell please call Rosamond Dustin (378-5997).

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES Betty Applegate requests your services at the door of Judson House from 11 AM to 3:30 PM on a Wed., Sat., or Sun. of your choice to greet visitors while our guides are conducting tours. Please mail the form below if you will help.

Bon't Forget: Lincoln Sander on March 20 at 8:00 PM  
Contributions to the Antique Show  
Attendance at the Antique Show  
Preparation for the 1981 season at Judson House

Sincerely,  
*Carol W. Lovell*  
Mrs. Todd B. Lovell  
President

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To: Mrs. Russel C. Applegate, Jr.  
6080 North Main Street  
Stratford, Ct. 06497

I wish to serve as a volunteer Host/Hostess at Judson House on

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Wednesday	_____					
Saturday	_____					
Sunday	_____					

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_