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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

A Hand on the PAST >> An Eye to the FUTURE

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Volume X Issue I

September 2005

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Capt. David Judson House c 1750  
Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

## NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday September 16, 2005 - 7:30pm

Christ Episcopal Church  
2000 Main Street, Stratford

## THE HURRICANE OF 1938

Robert L. Berthelson

There is a sumptuous variety about the New England weather that compels the stranger's admiration and regret. The weather is always doing something there.

*Mark Twain*

On September 21 the Hurricane of 1938 battered Stratford. After five days of rain, the morning had been changeable, dashes of rain alternating with clearing skies. By early afternoon a solid sheet of rain was falling, whipped by fiercer winds than anyone remembered. By 2:30, WICC announced that a hurricane was on its way. Wind speeds were measured to 121 miles per hour, and gusts to 183. High tides swept over the shoreline and towering waves lashed cottages and town roads. Cottages at Short Beach, Lordship, and Long Beach were smashed or swept away. Paul Castelot was drowned attempting to save a boat from drifting onto the jetty in the river, and Charles Krolinowski died of injuries received when part of his roof crashed down on him. Power went out and phones went dead when trees came down on wires. Roads were flooded and for six hours Lordship was cut off from the world.

Late in the afternoon the wind died completely and the sun beamed down. It was the eye of the storm. As darkness fell the wind and rain returned, and homes were lighted by oil lamps and candles.

The next day, residents looked out on devastation. Fifteen hundred trees were down, and Public Works with WPA crews took five days to clear the streets. Digging out took weeks. Most beach cottages were never restored.

*(taken from In Pursuit of Paradise)*

Bob Berthelson of Trumbull, a photographer with a lifelong interest in American history and nostalgia, has prepared slide programs that he has presented to audiences in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. Bob has received the Award of Merit of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies and a Certificate of Commendation of the American Association of State and Local History.



The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.  
Bring a Friend

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Name the  
UN Secretary Generals



## Finance Committee

Over the past nearly two years we have witnessed a major change in the manner in which the financial assets of the Society have been managed. Under the direction of the late past president Dave Guion, and a number of members who served as the Finance Committee the Society made an entirely new approach to the management of these assets.

Heretofore the various securities were held at a number of local banks, at the custodian bank for different mutual funds, in a number of differing money market instruments and even individual securities. Among other attributes, this created a complex and confusing array of assets, receipts and accountabilities. It was determined that a new approach was needed.

These individuals secured the services of RHS & Associates (RHS&A) to give guidance in organization, custodianship and asset (portfolio) management to this sector of the Society's responsibilities.

RHS&A's first order of business was to assemble the assets into their two primary components: Restricted and Unrestricted. The second was to open a custodian account with a discount broker that could handle all types of assets and report both with monthly statements and had on line capabilities. For that purpose RHS&A recommended T.D. Waterhouse, who was subsequently selected. Once the securities were placed in their proper account the process was begun to sell less desirable holdings, establish a more dynamic posture and to raise the income without diminishing the growth potential.

The portfolios are under regular review and periodically new securities are purchased or additions are made to existing holdings.

It appears that the income has now reached the point where principal is no longer needed to carry on the ordinary and usual obligations of the Society. Further, there has been a draw down of assets to complete the first phase of the Beach Carriage House restoration. In spite of that the assets are now larger than at the inception of this program some 21 months ago.

The portfolios today reflect a greater awareness of a global economy and the effects

of a new dynamic period in world trade. This by no means ignores the Blue Chips here in the US of A but recognizes that there are major institutions and manufacturers that abide far from our shores. A perusal of the portfolios will introduce a number of new and outstanding holding[s] in this expanded market.

For the Society's treasurer and auditor, and future officers, the task of due diligence and bill payment has been greatly simplified. Further, the assets are now in a mode that a lay individual can make rational judgments concerning the holdings.

## Carol Lovell Curator

The Early American Festival was a great success!! Our junior society members in 18th century dress gave tours of Judson House and mingled with the various re-enactors. Visitors were numerous! The Dedication of the World War II Monument included some of "our" Festival participants. The oppressive heat and imminent thunderstorm shortened the day, but did not dampen enthusiasm. Thanks to Sandy Rutkowski for a wonderful event!

The Beach Family Carriage House was opened at the close of a small ceremony that included the "Penny Whistle Players" group of children who had learned to play the penny whistle during camp in July. Eleanor Guion, wife of Dave Guion our late president, cut the ribbon formally opening the carriage house for the day.

Dave Guion's daughter and son-in-law, Robin and Chris Mojcik, found and donated an authentic 1874 Goddard-style carriage/buggy that was delivered by Long Island Ferry (!) on August 20. What an amazing gift to the Society! We are so thankful and appreciative!

We are planning a Grand Opening Event next June, when the carriage house is completely finished.

Genealogy requests continue to come in for Gloria Duggan, our librarian, from people from across the country. She is so good at research!

## *Doll Talks for The Young At Heart*

The Stratford Historical Society with the cooperation of the Stratford Library will present a special program for young and old on Wednesday, October 12th at 4:00 P.M., at the Stratford Library in the Lovell Room.



Millicent Zolan became a doll collector when her Aunt Minnie began bringing dolls to her niece from her travels.

When two daughters blessed Millicent's life, the special dolls of her childhood took their places on shelves in her daughters' rooms along with many others, of all sizes and kinds, gifted to the girls.

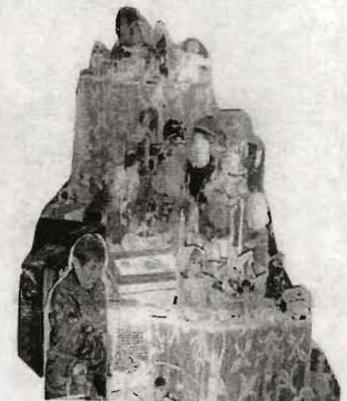
There was no thought of clearing any dolls out of the house when Millicent's daughters moved out. Then, foreign trips began for Millicent and it became fun to return with dolls from various cultures.

Throughout ensuing years, friends and family knew she would be happy to receive mementos of their trips in the form of a doll. Not only dolls of other countries were saved, but American dolls of all types found their place in her collections.



the ethnic dolls are displayed and discussed.

Today, Millicent is continuing to share her knowledge of dolls, their history, their value, and other collectible information by addressing local organizations especially historical societies.





**Millicent Zolan**

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06432  
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Email: mabelz25@aol.com

"Doll talks for the young at heart"

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

We are once again asking for a mail-in ballot for the annual election of officers. Please complete and return the ballot before October 15, 2005. If you wish to nominate a candidate or work on a committee, please come to the September 16, 2005 meeting.

### THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2005 - 2006

PRESIDENT	Ted Iott
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Todd Lovell
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Rudy Mastroianni
RECORDING SECRETARY	Barbara Firisin
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Marie Blake
TREASURER	Robert Hctor
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Kay Moore

### DIRECTORS

2003-2006 Margaret Jacaruso  
2003-2006 Shirley McCormack  
2004-2007 Rebecca Arkenberg  
2005-2008 Sandy Rutkowski

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Accessions/Exhibits	Carol Lovell
Building/Grounds	Todd Lovell, Eric Iott & Rudy Mastroianni
Education	Diane Matthews
Finance	Todd Lovell
Hospitality	Mary Hardy, Shirley Balascak & Shirley McCormack
Hosts & Hostesses	
Library	Gloria Duggan, Marie Blake
Membership	Dolores Hctor
Newsletter	Marie Blake, Richard Steele & Rudy Mastroianni
Program	Marie Blake
Publicity	Dorothy Euerle
Town Historian	Lewis G. Knapp

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## Summer Camp 2005

### Children Step Back In Time For A Week of Colonial Fun

The first week of July found Captain David's home a buzz with young voices. The young people brought their energy and enthusiasm to camp each morning and were rewarded with non stop fun, history, stories, and of course...colonial chores!

One of the lessons included a discussion of Flora, a female slave portrayed in the Society's profile and her bill of sale. We read a contract for a young indentured servant, and looked at the notebook of minutes for the Stratford Anti Slavery Society.

A new hands on activity of furniture making was introduced by Mr. Iott, a local craftsman and docent. The children enjoyed seeing the old tools and creating small benches which will be used when they give tours in the Judson House.

The success of our program lies in wonderful children and incredibly fun and entertaining adults who create an atmosphere of learning disguised in colonial life. The society offers a heartfelt thank you to the following staff members:

Barbara Firisin, Lyn Hubina, Ted Iott,  
Diane Matthews, Carolyn Ross and  
Sandy Rutkowski

High School and College Counselors  
Adam Drenkard, Annie Loynd  
Samantha Matthews

Kerri Rutkowski  
Liz Trojanowski  
Campers for 2005

Sarah Lovell	Melissa Lovell
Gina Mariano	Allison Warren
Haley Tomsheck	Stephen Hannigan
Julia Hannigan	Rachel Lindberg
Christina Heffern	Katie Kuplack
Jack Kuplack	Meghan Donelly
Gretchen Pancak	Patrick Donegan
Lindsay Carroll	Emily Buzzanca
Rebecca Simon	Kelsey Guggenheim
Spenser Schermerhorn	Victoria Regensburger
Claudia Regensburger	

## Early American Festival August 14th, 2005

On a very warm Sunday afternoon the Early American Festival once again drew young and old visitors to tour The Captain David Judson House and attend the opening of the newly partially restored Beach Carriage House.

Throughout the day Crafters demonstrated 18th century skills: a Rug Braider, Tinsmith, Blacksmith and Potter. Re-enactors of the Revolutionary War, French and Indian War, Civil War and Mountain Men Fur Trappers set up their tents and displays. The Re-enactors and those that accompanied them were eager to answer questions and demonstrate their equipment.

In the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum, where the air conditioning provided some respite from the heat, Jim Matthews, Civil Engineering Field Officer, displayed instruments, pistols, knives, etc.

Music was provided by A Hearthside Wait throughout the day. A Bake Sale and Beverages were available for snacking and the Gift Shop in Judson House both did a very vigorous business.

At 10:30am Eleanor Guion, wife of recently deceased president Dave Guion, cut the ribbon across the Carriage House door marking completion of this stage of the restoration.

At 2:30 pm the Dedication of the WWII memorial took place with hundreds of Veterans and friends on Academy Hill to honor the 97 Stratford men who died during WWII. Many Stratford Veterans were present each placing a flower at the memorial.

Sandy Rutkowski, chairman of the day's festivities was assisted by the Sr. and Jr. Docents, who conducted tours, and members and friends of the Society. We thank them all for a wonderful Festival.



From page 2  
UN Secretary Generals

Trygve Lie  
1946-53 Norway

Dag Hammarskjold  
1953-61 Sweden

U Thant  
1962-71 Burma

Kurt Waldheim  
1971-81 Austria

Javier Perez de Cuellar  
1982-91 Peru

Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
1991-96 Egypt

Kofi Annan  
1996- Ghana



Christina Heffern, Gina Mariano and Victoria Regensburger at their Paradise Green stand selling baked goods, crafts and lemonade to raise money for The Beach Family Carriage House being restored at the Judson House by the Stratford Historical Society. Also participating, but not pictured, are Angela Mariano and Claudia Regensburger.

(Photo by Wayne Ratzenberger)

## Stratford Historical Society

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### COMPUTER CORNER

e-mail us at:

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Fax: 378-2562

Stratford Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting

October 31, 2005

Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

All members of the Society are Welcome to Attend

Please call 378-0630 for information