
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XII Issue 1

September 2007



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

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday September 28, 2007 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main Street, Stratford

Mary K. Witkowski

Coming Home to Bridgeport

Mary Witkowski, Bridgeport city historian and head of the historical collection at the Bridgeport Public Library, will present a nostalgic view of the city's past and a record of its changes. Her presentation will include a diverse collection of early photographs and vintage postcards that illustrate the people, the events and everyday scenes that make up Bridgeport's story. Connecticut's largest city is undergoing an exciting economical and cultural renaissance.

Ms. Witkowski has a Master's Degree in Library Science from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan and an Undergraduate Degree in Geography from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Her busy schedule includes writing a column in the Bridgeport News called "From the Historical Collection". Ms. Witkowski was instrumental in starting the Bridgeport Historical Society. She resides in Bridgeport. Her publications include:

Bridgeport

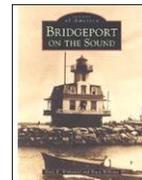
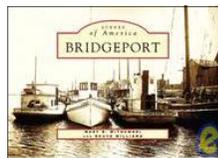
Public Library



1883-Main & John Sts.



1927-Broad & State Sts.



ANTIQUUE APPRAISAL AND TAG SALE

In the spring of 2008, Mr. Joseph Kabe of Joseph Kabe Estate Auction in Milford will be at the Stratford Historical Society to view and appraise items. This will be an opportunity for you to have your interesting, valuable or just different articles assessed by an expert. We will also have a Tag Sale at this time, so start sorting now; we will be accepting items in January. More information to come in the November Newsletter.



The meeting is open to the Public
Refreshments will be served — Bring a Friend
Note starting time now 7:00pm

Rudy Mastroianni President

Good to report of the many activities since our last newsletter of May, making it a tough (but pleasant) job to organize and edit this one. First things first. Election of the 2007-2008 Governing Board. On the insert are listed the candidates to date. A ballot is attached, which must be returned by October 15.

In summary, recent months activities have included Judson House tours given to school groups, the public and to special visitors such as a descendant of David Judson (Larry Judson from Flint, MI) and a Curtis (Nadia Mitchell, Athens, OH), and to Stratford Sister Cities visitors from Australia and New Zealand. Our Stratford Day open house attracted 50 visitors, and vintage baseball league members displayed equipment and photos on our lawn. Other recent events featured the presentation of the four Scholarship Awards, and on Flag Day, June 14, a new flag, a gift from the Milford DAR, was hoisted for the first time. I'm also pleased to report that the exterior of the Judson House and Catharine Mitchell Museum got painted, and that a new roof has been installed on the Museum.

Remember the past - ensure the future.



Book of Remembrance

In Memory of
His Wife Barbara C. Mastroianni
Given by

Rudolph G. Mastroianni

In Honor of
Priscilla "Pat" Gunther
Daughters: Pattie Gunther Hasellman
Karla Gunther Mazzey
Son: Lance I. Gunther
Son-In-Law: Ronald Mazzey

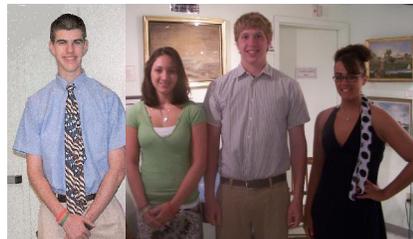
Given by:
Senator George L. "Doc" Gunther

In Honor of
Mildred Jaekle's 89th Birthday
Given by:

Andrew J. Nelson

In Honor of Catherine C. Lawrence's 90th Birthday
Given by:
Carol and Todd Lovell
Marie E. Blake

Scholarship Award Honorees



Winners of the Society's 2007 Scholarship Awards were (l. to r.) Adam Drenkard, Monica Mazzarella, David Dudics and Devin Zayas. They were chosen from applicants who were 2007 high school seniors and Stratford residents. Qualifications included a favorable academic record and a demonstrated strong interest in history through participation in U.S. history related activities. Shirley McCormack and Barbara Firisin, selection committee co-chairs, said that home educated applicants were also eligible.

For Adam (Trumbull H. S.), stories his grandfather told him when he was five years old had fascinated him. His intellectual curiosity led him to his school's "We the People" program where students discuss the creation of the U.S. Constitution and its impact on the modern world. He also has been a volunteer at the summer history camp.

Monica (Stratford H. S.) has volunteered at the Society's history camp for three years. She was impressed by learning and being able to tell others about the slave quarters, colonial kitchen and gardens at the Judson House Museum.

David's (Christian Heritage School) travel experiences to Gettysburg, Washington D.C., Jamestown and Williamsburg led him to the history honors program. As a member of his school's history club, he joined their 10-day tour of Europe, Rome and Greece.

Devin Zayas (St. Joseph H. S.) has volunteered for nine years at the Judson House Museum, the Society's summer history camp and participated in holiday open houses there. Her personal statement emphasized her love for history.

Membership Reminder

September is the beginning of a new membership year. A membership envelope for the year 2007-2008 is enclosed with this Newsletter for your convenience. Thank you for your continued support.

Happenings:

Memorial Day



Stratford Day



At Judson House and Museum



Memorial Day 2007



Stratford Day 2007



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, 2007. If you wish to nominate a candidate or work on a committee, please come to the September 28, 2007 meeting.

THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008

PRESIDENT*	Rudy Mastroianni
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT*	Todd Lovell
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT*	Tim Jezierny
RECORDING SECRETARY*	Barbara Firisin
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY*	Marie Blake
TREASURER*	Robert Hoctor
ASSISTANT TREASURER*	Margaret Jacaruso

*Comprise the Executive Committee

DIRECTORS

2005-2008	Sandy Rutkowski
2006-2009	Shirley McCormack
2006-2009	Judy Kurmay
2007-2010	Rebecca Arkenberg

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS (1st Name Listed)

Accessions/Exhibits	Carol Lovell, Marie Blake
Buildings/Grounds	Todd Lovell, Eric Iott
Education	General Chair-Barbara Firisin
School Tours	Barbara Firisin
History Camp	Sandy Rutkowski
Docent Recruitment & Training	Diane Matthews
Finance	Todd Lovell
Hospitality	Pam Hutchinson
House Tours, Hosts & Hostesses	Dolores Hoctor
Library	Gloria Duggan, Marie Blake
Membership	Dolores Hoctor
Newsletter	Dick Steele, Marie Blake
Program	Marie Blake, Shirley McCormack
Publicity	Dorothy Euerle
Town Historian Emeritus	Lewis G. Knapp

**Christ Episcopal Church
300th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, November 4th**

Before Benjamin Franklin was two years old and before George Washington was even born, the first Episcopal Church was born in the Connecticut Colony. The name of the Church was Christ Episcopal Church. The place was Stratford, Connecticut. The date was 1707.

Three hundred years have come and gone, numerous battles have been waged by the fledgling nation called the United States of America and Christ Church is still doing what it first did in 1707 --ministering to the spiritual and temporal needs of its members and the community at large.

Christ Church will commemorate this historic milestone on November 4th with a day of festivities and celebration, beginning with a 10 a.m. Sunday worship service, celebrated by the Bishop of Connecticut, the Right Reverend Andrew D. Smith, and its thirtieth pastor, the Reverend Robert Stuhlmann. The service will be followed by a gala luncheon at Liedel's Caterers in Stratford.

Invited dignitaries include Governor Jodi Rell, Mayor James Miron, the Stratford delegation from the Connecticut Assembly.

The public is cordially invited to attend both events. Tickets for the luncheon are \$25 per person and may be reserved by calling the church office at 375-4447.

May Membership Meeting

Carolyn Ivanoff presented a program on the administering of medicine on the battlefields during the Civil War highlighting the conditions encountered by the physicians and their aides and the equipment they had to work with.



Sister Cities

Stratford, Connecticut has friends in Ontario and Prince Edward Island, Canada, Stratford-upon-Avon, England, and in the Stratfords of New Zealand and Australia: all because the town is a member of the Sister Cities. Recently six New Zealanders and two Australians came to tour the Judson House and learn the history of our town on their way to the 2007 reunion in Ontario. These members meet every three years for about a week at one of the Stratfords. It's a cultural exchange with musical or theatrical performances by each group and a chance to see local points of interest. Each town maintains a friendship garden. Ours is at Boothe Park.

Members are urged to invite family, friends and neighbors to tour the Judson House, Museum, Carriage House and Gardens. We are open from 12 noon until 3pm Sundays and Wednesdays until the end of October.

Christ Episcopal Church, Stratford, Connecticut, 300 Years of History, 1707-2007

This extensive work by Catherine Clinton Lawrence tells the church's story through the lives of rectors and curates who have served the 300 year-old church, and of events occurring during their ministries in Stratford. Among personal family memoirs, there are traditional tales of people associated with the church community, a murder and a royal romance. Appendices contain lists of Episcopal terminology, memorials, years ministers served the church, and revolutionary soldiers buried in the old Episcopal burying ground adjacent to the present church. The book is now available from The Stratford Historical Society, 967 Academy Hill, Stratford, CT 06615 for \$33 (plus s/h \$5).

School Tour of Judson House



Pictured are the young people from St. Mark RC Church School at the time of their June visit to the Society. Docents hosting the occasion and included in the photo were Barbara Firisin, Dave Schroeder, Carolyn Ross, Diane Matthews, Dolores Hctor and Rudy Mastroianni.

(Photo courtesy of Liz Crosby)

Stratford Historical Society

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COMPUTER CORNER

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Fax: 378-2562

On the Web: www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com

Stratford Historical Society Governing Board Meeting
October 29, 2007

Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

All members of the Society are Welcome to Attend

Please call 378-0630 for information