
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XIV Issue 5

May 2010



Capt. David Judson House c1750
Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday May, 28, 2010 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main Street, Stratford

Kathleen Maher:

P. T. BARNUM, (1810-1891)

The Man, the Myth, the Legend



In this anniversary year of P. T. Barnum's birth, we are indeed fortunate to have as our speaker Kathleen Maher, Executive Director and Curator of the Barnum Museum, who will talk about the man, his city and his museum.

Known to most of the world as the '*Great American Showman*', for more than 150 years, the weight of the Barnum name has forced associations of humbug and the hyperbolic alongside the austere; provoked thought and invited controversy; welcomed the cynic and engaged and challenged the skeptic. With the burgeoning ambitions of a visionary, yet still a man of his times, P.T. Barnum embraced the dream of a truly democratic nation, and in doing so, inspired a new American society to reach beyond the limits of ordinary expectations, to see the world as a place of opportunity and wonder.

P. T. Barnum's story begins long before his circus enterprise was created. Although the Barnum name lives on today as part American circus legacy, Mr. Barnum was 61 years old when the circus collaboration was presented to him. It was, in fact, his life-long love of his *American Museum* in New York City that drove his marketing machine and revealed a genius beyond the ideals of 19th century society. P. T. Barnum seized every moment and found promise in every opportunity.

Barnum made Bridgeport his adopted home and ultimately became the primary engineer of the city's prosperous industrial age. An entrepreneur, legislator, urban developer, community benefactor, philanthropist, abolitionist, lecturer, and author, Barnum was committed to the intellectual and cultural development of society and was fundamental in transforming the world of entertainment.

The meeting is open to the Public
Refreshments will be served -- Bring a Friend
In the event of a cancellation, it will be announced on WICC 600 AM
Also, call the Society at 203-378-0630

Rudy Mastroianni, President

I am pleased to close out the Society's very active 2009-2010 season by a recap of the articles presented in this Newsletter, the last issue until next September.

Dolores Hoctor's recruitment effort resulted in eleven new Docents who were trained (see photo next column), and participated in their first school tour for Second Hill Lane school. They will be further trained to give tours of Judson House, which will open for the season Sunday June 6, and continue through October every Wednesday and Sunday, noon to 3:00 p.m. The call for campers for *History Camp 2010* appears on pg. 3. The *Scholarship Committee* has approved of four applicants. Awards will be presented at the Membership meeting of Friday May 28, prior to the talk Barnum, The Man, The Myth, by Kathleen Maher. Her talk will include a PowerPoint presentation.

Dates and place for the upcoming event *Corsairs Over Connecticut* are shown below. The first appearance of this show in 2005 was a huge success.

Have a pleasant summer, and be well until we meet in print via the September Newsletter, and greet you at the September 24 General Membership meeting.

Corsairs Over Connecticut Returns

Memorial Day Weekend . May 29 - May 31

At Sikorsky Airport

Three Wings Flying Services Area



Scholarship results

The Scholarship Committee has chosen four outstanding seniors who reside in Stratford to be recipients of our annual \$1,000 scholarship award. They are Robert Santo of Stratford High School, Kelsey Guggenheim of Stratford High School, Jessica McCabe of Bunnell High School and Michael Arena of St. Joseph's High School.

All the recipients submitted a written essay, letters of recommendation and attained a minimum GPA from 3.2 to 4.0. They also came in for an interview with members of the Committee. We want to congratulate them and wish them well. They will be attending colleges of their choice.

Their awards will be presented at our annual membership meeting on Friday, May 28th at 7:00 P.M.

Docent Training Session

Pictured below are some members of the recently completed Docent training program. With Dolores Hoctor instructing are Gail Liscio, Pam Hutchinson, Amanda DeBiase, Carol Bogacz, Debbie Mackbach, Fran Esposito, Wyatt Whiteman, Joe Luput and Alberta Vargas.





Book of Remembrance

Donations made in Memory of:

David Guion

Given by: RoBin, Chris, Arla, C.J. and Dan Mojcik

Carol and Todd Lovell

Summer History Camp

“Stepping back through time at the Judson House”

Hear ye! Hear ye! Time to sign up for History Camp to be held July 5th to 9th from 9:00 - 12:30. Each day we will study different aspects of 18th century life. From candle dipping, churning butter, and weaving to early schooling, with lots of fun in between. A very hands-on experience. A walking tour of early Stratford will take place, and campers will hear town legends and stories.

At the end of the week we will showcase all of our new knowledge to friends and relatives, dressed in 18th century costumes. Campers will give tours of the Captain David Judson House! On graduation campers will receive diplomas and be welcomed into the junior Stratford Historical Society. Afterwards, there will be refreshments and a period dance for all to join in.

Openings are limited so if you have a child or grandchild entering the 4th grade on up through high school, and they enjoy history, give the Society a call.

Camp cost is \$115 per camper plus an Adult Membership in the historical society at \$20 per family.

Registration forms are available from the society office on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by telephone request. 203-378-0630

Volunteer needed to handle financial portfolio of the Stratford Historical Society, keep records, buy and sell securities through TDAMERITRADE as directed by our Financial Advisor. For additional information call 203-378--0630 Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00am - 3:00pm.

The next Docent training class is March of 2011. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact the Society.

Did You know?

Stratford was the largest town in Fairfield County in 1775. Huntington was set off in 1789, Trumbull in 1797, and Bridgeport in 1821. Monroe was set off from Huntington in 1823, and the remaining area of Huntington became Shelton after 1919.

March Membership Meeting

The delightful neighborhood story of Stratford West Woods and Everett Road was told to an appreciative audience by Dan Cruson, the book's author.

Reminder

In the event of questionable weather at future meeting dates, cancellation will be announced on WICC 600 AM, or you may check by calling the Society at 203-378-0630.

Doctor Johnson And The Constitution

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 27, 1787. A letter to Stratford from William Samuel Johnson reads: *“My dear son. I am now attending with Mr. Sherman and Mr. Elsworth as delegates on the part of Connecticut a grand convention of the United States for the purpose of strengthening and consolidating the union, & proposing a more efficient mode of government than that contained in the Articles of Confederation. We have delegates from eleven states actually assembled, consisting of many of the most able men in America, with General Washington at our head, whom we have appointed president of the convention. It is agreed that for the present our deliberations shall be kept formal, so that I can only tell you that much information and eloquence has been displayed in the introductory speeches & that we have hitherto preferred great temperance, candour & moderation in debate. It evinced much solicitude for the public weal. Yet, as was to be expected, there is a great diversity of sentiment which renders it impossible to determine what will be the result of our deliberations.”*

Seventy-six delegates had been appointed to the Constitutional Convention; fifty-five showed up; thirty-nine signed the document; but fewer than twelve men created this paper that now governs more than two hundred million Americans. William Samuel Johnson from Stratford was one of those few; he was a catalyst whose participation made it possible, and he was chairman of the committee that put it into its final form.

On May 27, 1787, Doctor Johnson left Stratford for the convention. He stopped for a few days in New York, where he had just been chosen first president of the new Columbia College, then took the ferry to Elizabethtown and rode on to Philadelphia to be seated at the convention on June 2.

Source: In Pursuit of Paradise - L. G. Knapp

Old Glory Back at Center after Pole Repair



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COMPUTER CORNER

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Stratford Historical Society Governing Board Meeting
June 28, 2010 7:00pm Please call 203-378-0630
for more information