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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

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Volume XVII Issue 1

September 2012

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Capt. David Judson House c 1750

## *The Stratford Historical Society Presents*

*A discussion of*

### **Remington Woods with: Peter McKnight**

**Friday September 28, 2012 - 7:00pm**

**Christ Episcopal Church**

**2000 Main Street, Stratford**

Remington Woods is a beautiful 420 acre tract of land originally owned by the Remington Arms Company. They had used it for testing and storing the munitions they manufactured. It is currently owned by the Sporting Goods Properties, a subsidiary of the Dupont Corporation. The "Woods" is currently closed to the general public, but beautiful views, vistas and panoramas of the property can be observed from the surrounding streets. The property straddles the Bridgeport and Stratford town lines, with about 75 acres located within the boundaries of the Town of Stratford. Though much of the site is not polluted, Remington Woods is a "brownfield" which DuPont is remediating to meet industrial standards.



The owners, and Bridgeport and Stratford government officials, and the Bridgeport Regional Business Council have proposed a large corporate office/industrial development to help drive economic growth in Bridgeport/Stratford.

This business/industrial development proposal would entail development of a four-lane highway from I-95 north to the site. Most of the employees will be white collars from the suburbs and their commuter traffic will put unconscionable stress on I-95 and on Bridgeport's high air pollution and health problems.

As the disposition of this property is significant to residents in the area, as well as to the Town, we have invited Mr. McKnight, Chairman of Friends of Remington Woods, whose objective is to preserve Remington Woods as open space or as green development.

Friends of Remington Woods is a project of the Eastern Fairfield Sierra Group and as such is an organization of citizens, individual activists, and a coalition of representatives from wide-ranging neighborhood organizations whose objective is to preserve Remington Woods as open space or as green development. As Chairman of Friends, Mr. McKnight will be able to provide us with background, and the current status of their efforts, with photos.

*Photos courtesy of Friends of Remington Woods*

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**The meeting is open to the Public**

**Refreshments will be served — Bring a Friend**

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### Book of Remembrance

Donations have been made in  
Memory of:

**Elden H. Dustin**

Given by:

Geraldine & Walter Dunbar

Suzette Hallstrom

Manning J. Harvey, Jr.

Pamela L. Weber Kopko

Joan (Seaman) Lisy

Eugene & Gail McCarthy

Mary & John Olha

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Memory of:

**Rosamond & Elden Dustin**

Given by:

Sonya Turitz Schopick,

with love to Sara, Susan & Daniel

### A Message from Todd Lovell, President Pro Tem

This has been a difficult year for both me and the Stratford Historical Society with the passing of three good and faithful friends. We have lost our dedicated President, Rudy Mastroianni, our good and generous friend, Andrew Nelson, and a close personal friend of 66 years, George (Doc) Gunther. Their friendship, generosity and wise council will be greatly missed by me and all of us here at the Society.

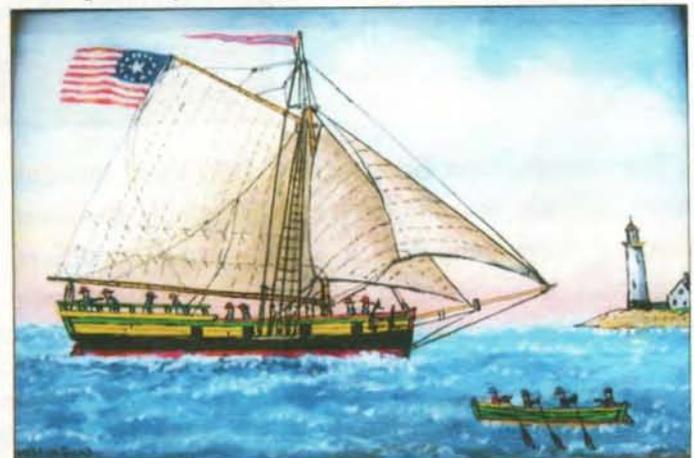


### Rudolph G. Mastroianni 1931—2012

Everyone in the Historical Society mourns the passing of our late President Rudy Mastroianni. Rudy was involved in all aspects of the Society's activities from participating as a docent in the school tours, leading the Society's Governing Board, spearheading new challenges in digital archiving and speaking at every general meeting. Rudy showed 24/7 devotion not only to the Historical Society but to his Church and the Int'l Order of Alhambra. He also served Stratford as an active AARP volunteer. He is missed.

### Andrew Nelson 1947—2011

A good friend and cheerful presence, Andy remembered the Historical Society with a collection of Milton Bond paintings among his many other generous gifts.



### George Gunther 1919—2012

"Doc" Gunther served Stratford as a Councilman before heading to the State Senate from 1966 to 2006. He supported conservation efforts around the state and the establishment of the Connecticut Air and Space Center.



### Summer 2012 at the Judson House



#### History Camp

Another happy group of campers attended History Camp this summer. The children and young teens practiced crafts and chores from colonial days.



#### Kings, Queens and Courtships: 30 Years of Shakespeare in Stratford

#### A Special Birthday Celebration

Marge Jacaruso celebrated her 100th birthday this July with many parties, including one here at the Historical Society. Marge has volunteered for 50 years, and assists in the library regularly on Tuesdays. Ms. Jacaruso was born and raised in Stratford, spending her early years in Avon Park in the south end of town. She attended the old Honeyspot School and Stratford High.



Thanks to the efforts of Volunteers Shannon McMahon Bruchal, Jamie Johnson; Board Members Pam Hutchinson, Carol Bogacz and Molly Bailey-Dillon and the ongoing work of Christine Rudney, the Stratford Historical Society displayed several costumes from the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre. Over 100 people viewed the exhibit during the Main Street Festival. June 2nd.

STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2012-2013 ELECTION BALLOT

\_\_\_\_ FOR ALL CANDIDATES, OR

\_\_\_\_ FOR ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

NOMINATIONS FOR:

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director &amp; Curator Carol Lovell

Assistant Director Sandy Rutkowski

THE PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013

PRESIDENT	Shirley McCormack
VICE PRESIDENT	Todd Lovell
RECORDING SECRETARY	
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Carol Bogacz
TREASURER	Robert Hoctor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Kurmay	2010 - 2013	Rebecca Arkenberg	2011 - 2014
Molly Bailey Dillon	2012 - 2015	Joseph Dimenno	2012 - 2016

STANDING COMMITTEES (Chairperson - 1st Name Listed):

Accessions/Exhibits	Carol Lovell
Buildings/Grounds	Todd Lovell, Joseph Bonitatebus
Education	Co-Chairs -
School Tours	Dolores Hoctor
History Camp	Sandy Rutkowski
Docent Recruitment & Training	Dolores Hoctor
Finance	Todd Lovell
Hospitality	Pam Hutchinson
House Tours, Hosts & Hostesses	
Library	Gloria Duggan, Marie Blake
Membership	Carol Bogacz
Newsletter	Molly Bailey Dillon, Dick Steele
Programs	Gail Liscio
Publicity	Sandy Rutkowski
Scholarships	Shirley McCormack
Town Historian Emeritus	Lewis G. Knapp

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

To cast your vote, please use the mail-in ballot printed on the reverse side of this sheet and return it to the Office before October 16, 2012. If you wish to nominate a candidate or work on a committee, please come to the September 28, 2012 meeting.

**See Ballot on reverse side**



**A Note from Shirley McCormack**  
I am honored to be the **new President of the Stratford Historical Society**. I hope to be able to guide us this year through some new and successful events that I think you will all enjoy. I know I have some big shoes

to fill from our former Society president's, and I shall do my best. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can reach me at the Society on Tuesday and Thursday, or at home.

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### Welcome Sandy Rutkowski

The Stratford Historical Society created a new position and hired Sandy Rutkowski for the job of Assistant Director! Sandy is a twenty year volunteer with the Historical Society and a former teacher with a Master's in education. She has run the History Camp, and is planning many new programs for all ages. Sandy brings lots of enthusiasm and new ideas to the office and will be announcing many new programs over the course of the year!

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### Historic Cemetery Tour

Our near neighbor at Christ Church will open its historic cemetery for public tours on Saturday Oct. 27th from 2-4pm. (Raindate: 10/28) Come hear the "saints" from the past tell their stories of Stratford life from long ago.

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### Stratford Library hosts Genealogy Workshop

The Stratford Library hosts an Ancestry.com workshop with a professional genealogist on Saturday Sept. 29th at 2pm in the Lovell Room. Please contact the Stratford Library as advance registration is required.

### May Meeting

The May Meeting was lively and well attended. Our Scholarship winners (pictured below) received their checks and were introduced by Shirley McCormack. We were happy to meet them and their parents. We were also treated with "This Old Hat", an original one-woman show highlighting several characters of historical importance including the first woman to run for President of the United States. The songs, composed and sung by Pat Carver and the character sketches grabbed our interest and sparked a wide-ranging discussion afterward.



Daniel Proposki, Amanda Ocasio, Gretchen Pancek, and Beata Hlinka

### Union Cemetery Index Available

Shirley McCormack typed for over a year creating a master list of all those buried in Union Cemetery, over 7800 names. Union Cemetery, located at 23 Temple Court, began in 1870. Ms. McCormick cross-referenced her alphabetical list with copies of the original records from the Cemetery so the location of the graves as well as any family information is available. The Union Cemetery Index completes the Historical Society's collection of Cemetery records for Stratford, which includes lists for the Congregational (Stratford) Cemetery begun in 1670, the Christ Church Episcopal Cemetery 1722-1828, and the Putney Cemetery begun in 1827.

## Education Committee Honored



Pictured are Board of Education members Jancee Pust-Marcone, Robert Chaloux, Charles Lindberg, Joseph Crudo, Janice Daponte, and Andrea Veilleux.

Accepting the award for the Historical Society is Dolores Hoxter, Education Chair, accompanied by Joseph Dimenno and Carol Lovell.

The Stratford Board of Education recognized the Historical Society Education Committee with the Friend of Education Award at a special meeting on June 25th. Our Revolutionary War tours for the 5th Grades this spring included: 600 students in 25 classes (public and parochial) over 16 days with 10 docents per day which equals 320 docent hours donated by 25 docents. This is a part of what makes the Society a proud "Friend of Education" in Stratford.

### Stratford Historical Society

967 Academy Hill

P.O.Box 382

Stratford, CT 06615-0382



E-mail us at: [Judsonhousestfd@aol.com](mailto:Judsonhousestfd@aol.com)

Phone: (203) 378-0630 Fax: 203-378-2562

On the Web: [www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com)

#### Upcoming Events:

Stratford Library Genealogy Workshop: Sept. 29th

Christ Church Cemetery Tour: October 27th

Governing Board Meeting: October 29th at 1pm

General Meeting: November 30th at 7pm