OLHSI Launches the 2017 Now & Then Community Calendar

The Old Lyme Historical Society marked the launch of the 2017 Now & Then Community Calendar with a festive reception at 55 Lyme Street on November 10th from 4-6pm. Visitors young and old stopped by to sample the cider and purchase calendars, books, prints and other gift items on their holiday checklists. Members of the Connecticut Handweavers’ Guild Area 4 provided weaving demonstrations on the Clement Community Loom, and OLHSI board member Skip Beebe entertained the crowd with his folk guitar stylings. There was also a door prize raffle for a lovely gift basket filled with Old Lyme Historical Society publications and merchandise.

This year’s Now & Then calendar features the following sponsors: South Lyme Union Chapel, The Chocolate Shell, Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Bee and Thistle Inn, Lyme Art Association, Old Lyme Marina, Sound View Beach Association, Black Hall Outfitters, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, Florence Griswold Museum, Town of Old Lyme, and The Bowerbird.

Always an eagerly anticipated holiday gift, the 2017 Now & Then Community Calendar is available for sale at The Cooley Gallery, Florence Griswold Museum, Laysville Hardware, and other locations about town. Additionally, for your convenience, you may purchase the calendar outside the Post Office on Saturday, December 3 from 10am - 2pm; at the Historical Society (55 Lyme Street) during the “Homes for the Holidays” house tour on Saturday, December 10 from 11am - 3pm, or outside Shalett’s Cleaners on Saturday, December 17 from 10am-2pm.

—Michelle Pearson

Photos: James Meehan
From the Co-Chairs

The past few months of accomplishments were interrupted by one sad event: the passing of Trustee emeritus Jim Noyes. The Society's Board of Trustees decided to rename the Chairmen's Award the James Brewster Noyes Award. This award honors a Society member who goes “above and beyond” in time and effort to support the Society. Jim Noyes was the first recipient of the Chairmen's Award.

The Society again sponsored the July Town Band concert on the South Green. Despite the high temperatures and fears of melting ice cream, the concert was a success. It is a pleasure to team up with the Florence Griswold Museum and the Old Lyme Historic District Commission for the benefit of the community. Two weeks later, we took part in the 30th Midsummer Festival during which members of the Connecticut Handweavers’ Guild demonstrated their craft, the Old Lyme Fire Department graciously lent us their 1928 Maxim fire truck as a centerpiece and musician Jim Lampos entertained our visitors with his wonderful guitar music.

In September, we held our annual Antiques Appraisal Faire in the Old Lyme Town Hall. This event, spearheaded by Leslie Markowicz, attracted many people curious about the value of their antiques and collectibles. Our thanks to the appraisers and to the sponsors (a first this year), whose generous donations covered our expenses, allowing us to add over $1,000 to the Carol Noyes Winters Scholarship fund. Two weeks later, we held our third fall plant sale, overseen by Jenn Hillhouse. The proceeds of this event were earmarked for the ongoing work on our building. Skip Beebe organized our third fundraiser dinner, held this year at On the Rocks restaurant at the Fox Hopyard Golf Club. All attending agreed that it was a fine affair and we hope to repeat it next year. We celebrated the launch of our 2017 Now & Then Community Calendar on November 10th with a festive reception at the Old Lyme Historical Society at 55 Lyme Street.

In our last newsletter, we reported that we had contracted with a group from Vermont to restore our iconic stage curtain. Unfortunately, a health issue in the family of one of the conservators has put this on hold for a while. Perhaps in our next newsletter we’ll be able to report the completion of this project.

Looking ahead, on Saturday, December 10th we will be participating in the “Homes for the Holidays” Tour organized by our neighbors at the Old Lyme Children’s Learning Center. We will also host a cookie decorating session for the OLCLC children on Tuesday, December 13th from 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

No newsletter would be complete without a report on the progress of our award-winning Tuesday Morning Work Crew. With the archives room essentially complete, they have shifted their attention to preparing a furnace room to house the new furnace/AC unit which will soon be installed by Wilcox Fuel.

The Handweavers’ Guild practices their craft every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Do stop by 55 Lyme Street and watch them work on the Clement Community Loom.

We always appreciate donations of items of local historic interest as well as monetary donations to our on-going renovation project. Please stop in and visit whenever you see signs of life at 55 Lyme St. Thank you for your support.

Timothy Griswold & Mark Lander
Chairs, Board of Trustees, Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.
The Historical Society was sorry to learn of the death of Mary Janvrin. She was a supporter of the Historical Society and donated two marvelous dollhouses belonging to Mary and her sister, Natalie Janvrin Wiggins. They are on permanent display at 55 Lyme Street where the public can enjoy viewing the meticulously placed furnishings, some hand done. Mary's longtime friend, Jean O'Reilly has written a short biography about Mary Janvrin. We are pleased to publish it here with our own appreciation of Mary's generosity.

Mary Janvrin was born in New York City on June 24, 1925. Her father Edmund R. P. Janvrin was a physician and a well-known amateur naturalist and ornithologist. Her mother Elizabeth Train Janvrin was an artist, and before her marriage, a book illustrator. Mary attended the Nightingale-Bamford School and the Barmore Secretarial School in New York City. Following her graduation, Mary was employed by Mrs. August Belmont and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. Mary and her family spent many summers in Old Lyme and she settled there permanently in the 1970’s along with her sister Natalie and Natalie’s husband, Grafton Wiggins.

Mary was a talented painter, sketcher and bird carver and she was particularly adept at working in miniature. She loved horses and rode as a child. She continued that love through her drawings and paintings of horses. Mary and Natalie lovingly preserved their childhood possessions, including Steiff animals, dolls, Tynietoy dollhouses, children's china, greeting cards and correspondence received from friends and relatives. They collected miniatures and created several fine miniature rooms and houses. They also preserved many family pieces passed down through the generations, including diaries, drawings, photographs and objects, such as the shoes worn by their great-grandmother Elizabeth Conant Hill when she danced with the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) during his visit to the United States. After Natalie’s death in 2010, Mary became the curator of their collections and earmarked a number of items to be donated to the Old Lyme Historical Society. Mary died in Chester on September 29, 2016.

-- Jay and Jean Landry O'Reilly Wickford, RI
Support the Old Lyme Historical Society by becoming a member today.

2017 Membership

Date __________________

□ New member □ Renewing member

Name _____________________________________

Address ____________________________________

Town_______________ State______ Zip_________

Email  _____________________________________

Phone _____________________________________

□ Student $10          □ Individual $20         □ Family $35

□ Patron $100 □ Benefactor $250

□ Business / Corporate $100                 □ Lifetime $500

□ Additional donation

Please make your check payable to Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.

My check for $____________is enclosed.

Dues are fully tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!

Are you interested in volunteering with the OLHSI?

If so, what areas are of interest to you?

The OLHSI is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Connecticut. It is a registered charity with the state Department of Consumer Protection and is recognized by the IRS for 501(c)3 status.

Benefits of OLHSI membership
• A subscription to the River & Sound newsletter
• Your own copy of Lyme Street walking tour
• Advance notice of and discounted rates for selected events
• A 10% discount on our books
• Training in historical research techniques, and opportunities to be involved with our oral history project
• The realization that your tax deductible contribution is supporting a vital cultural resource

The Archives Committee Co-chairs, Sandy Downing and Alison Mitchell, are shown welcoming our new and much appreciated Monday Archive volunteers, Jeff Sturges and Lilo Hess. An orientation session was held on the scope of our collection, and how to handle various artifacts using cloth gloves, and being careful to remove paper clips, staples, pins and the like. The Archive team also includes Aoife Hufford, a sophomore at Old Lyme High School, on Monday afternoons. On Thursdays, Mary Jo Nosal has joined us to contribute her time to the enormous task of cataloging our collection. Significant progress is being made, and we look forward to the day when the Archives will be open to the public. In the meantime, we are eagerly accepting donations. The Society was pleased to receive a donation recently from David and Suzanne Hoffman of a tole tray and Hitchcock style chair both beautifully hand stenciled by Bea Hoffman, David’s grandmother, and wife of American impressionist, Harry Hoffman. The Hoffmans maintained a house on Sill Lane for many years.

The Archives Committee is looking for the following Town of Old Lyme Annual Reports to complete our collection which starts in 1927. We would be grateful if a look in your attic or basement uncovers any of these: 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1949, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1962. Give us a call at 860 434 0684. We will be happy to pick up.

Please mail your membership form & payment to
Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.
PO. Box 352, Old Lyme, CT 06371
2016 Old Lyme Historical Society Membership

Bob and Shirley Adams
Evan Andriopoulos
Milton Allen
All-Pro Automotive
Sousan Arafeh
Judith Archer
Art and Barb Avery
Thomas and Janet Bagg
Carol Bacidayan
Barbara Bair
Sheldon Baker
William Bansavage
Charles Batts
Charles and Barbara Beal
John Beatty
Jim and Janet Bechtel
Arthur and Nancy Beebe
Charles Beebe
Tom and Judy Beers
Maxwell Belding
Heather Bennett
Tara Bennett
Rudolf Bergmans and Ann Lane
Rudolph and Mary Ann Besier
William and Regina Birdsell
Ann Bliss
Tom and Jean Bloom
John Boccaccio
Jane and Ben Bourn
Bouvier Insurance Co.
Leila Bowman
Sandra Bramhall
Roger and Sandy Breunig
Carol Brevard
Mary Broughton
Ann Brubaker
Francis and Irene Buckley
Jane Bugbee
George Byron
Jane and Peter Cable
Sandra Cameron
Susan Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Siesel Canaday
James Carnell
Paul and Jean Carroll
Joanne Centola
Richard Cersosimo
and Valerie Keif
Steven Champion

Gladys Chase
Paul Chasse
Mary Crist
Christ The King Mens’ Club
Catherine and John Christiano
David and Shirley Clark
Herb and Sharon Clark
Jeanne Clark
Leroy Clark
Sharon Clark
Shirley Moore Clark
Constance Cliffe
Ken and Eileen Coffee
James and Hyla Cohen
Bernard Cole
Kevin and Joyce Cole
Scott Colley
David Cooksley
Cooley Gallery
Jeff and Betsy Cooley
Eugenie Copp
Donald Crane
Frederick and Rebecca Crosby
Rose Cushman
Keith Czarnecki
Sloan Danenhower
David and Mary Dangremond
Patricia Davidson
Will Davidson
Clio Davis
Priscilla Davis
Charlie Delinks
Nina DeMartini-Day
Richard Dillenbeck
Joanne DiCamillo
Robert and Pamela DiNapoli
Sandra Downing
Bob and Nancy Dunn
Susan Dunkerley-Squier
Alan and Susan Eddy
David and Mary Eklund
Cora Ekwurtzel
Jonathan Ely
Matthew Ely
Timothy Ely
Norman Emerson
Essex Savings Bank
Tad Fallon
John and Judith Faniola

Ned Farman
Frank Finley
John and Ann Flower
John and Alison Forbis
Brian and Jane Fox
Ted Freeman
Paul and Sarah Gleason
Dorothy Globus
Henry Golet
Dolores Green
Katherine Green
James and Jayne Griffin
Susan Griggs
John Griswold
Julia Griswold
Martin and Matt Griswold,
Judge’s Farm
Peter Griswold
Renwick and Annie Griswold
Timothy Griswold
Richard and Luisa Grogan
Barbara Hack
Robert and Catherine Haff
Frank and Pamela Hamilton
Joy and Lee Hanes
Hunter and Hildegarde Hannum
Martha Hansen
Steve and Diane Hart
Roderick Hartung
Dr. Mary Hayman
Mary Head
Joanne Hedwall
Ted Hendrickson
Hans and Lilo Hess
Inge Hieret
Jennifer Hillhouse
Margaret Hillhouse
Matthew Hillhouse
Charles and Tammy Hinckley
Janet Hine
David Hoffman
Nancy Hoffman
Gary Holland
Marie Holfelder
Elizabeth Howard
Stephen Huber
Aofie Hufford
Connie Hurtt
John Huss

Elizabeth Huston
Carl and Christine Igelbrink
Patricia Jackson
Ian James
George and Gunilla James
Ellis and Mary Ellen Jewett
Donald and Suzanne Joffray
Clifford Johnson
Diana Arowood Johnson
David and Kate Johnston
Sandra and Stephen Joncus
Bob and Ann Jose
Elizabeth Karter
Connie Kastelowicz
J. David and Elizabeth Kelsey
Margaret Kenny
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Keogh
Ford C. Klier
Kenneth Kline
Robert Knaff
James B. Kolb
Stanley Kolber
and Christina Clayton
Raymond and Barbara Koski
Martin Kreiswirth
Gerard and Fleur Lawrence
Matthew LaConti
Ann Lander
Karl and Erin Lander
Mark Lander
Christy Laurence
Jerry and Fleur Lawrence
Laysville Hardware
Norman Legassie
Teddi Levy
Joann Lishing
Janet Speirs Littlefield
Dann and Kathleen Lockwood
Olwen Logan
Jane and Townsend Ludington
Julie and Van Lyman
Ellie Machnik
Tod and Becky Machnik
William Macina
Kristin and Jan Magnussen
Diane Mallory
Leslie Markowicz
Elizabeth Lea Marsh
Jane Marsh
Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.
55 Lyme Street, P.O.Box 352, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371
OLHSI.org