



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

November 2022 Newsletter

Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

492 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 Tel: 860-342-5455

www.PortlandHistSoc.com Email: PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com

Vol. 48 No. 3

2022 FESTIVAL OF WREATHS JINGLE & MINGLE

December 3rd & 4th

Our 11th annual Festival of Wreaths will take place Saturday and Sunday, December 3 & 4, 2022, in the Carriage House at 329 Main Street. For the 11th year, we are inviting local businesses, organizations, families and individuals to decorate and donate a wreath or tabletop decoration for this teacupstyle raffle. Wreaths and decorations may be real or artificial, your choice of size and shape, and may be made from traditional greens or other materials. It can have a theme — bells — or be decorated to attract a particular audience. A gift card — for a service, restaurant, shopping destination, etc — can be attached as part of your decoration.

You can help us continue this tradition in Portland by making a wreath for this special fundraiser. If you prefer, a financial donation may be made to the Festival and your name will be posted as a sponsor of the event. Or if you like the idea of a decorated wreath and just don't have the time or don't consider yourself crafty, for a donation of \$30.00 one of our Society "elves" will make a holiday decoration in your name!

We ask that everyone register by Thursday, December 1 so that we can plan our space. To register, please let us know as soon as possible with a quick email to: PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com.

On Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4, we will host two days of Portland folks, young and old, wearing their warmest sweaters, gathering to see some great holiday decorations — "Jingle & Mingle"! From noon to 4 pm on the days of the Festival, tickets can be purchased and placed in the gift bags near the wreaths you would like to take home. Shortly after 4 on Sunday, the winning names will be pulled and winners notified by text/phone call. All proceeds from this event will be used to further the Society's mission to preserve Portland's history and to fund educational projects for the community. In ten years we have raffled over 300 wreaths and this year we are anticipating the arrival of many fun-loving and festive wreaths made by the creative folks of Portland! To register, please let us know as soon as possible with a quick email to PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com.



Products for Your Holiday Shopping from the Callander Cupboard

All items will be available at our Festival of Wreaths on December 3 and 4. They are also available at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, 492 Main Street. Order online by going to our website PortlandHistSoc.org and clicking on Callander Cupboard.



**Westerwald
Pottery Jars and
Pitchers**

Adorn your dining room table or kitchen countertop with classic Westerwald handmade stoneware. Perfect for birthdays, showers and weddings — start your holiday shopping early. **\$25**



**Portland, Conn
Town Seal Wooden
Cutting Board**

This cutting board measures approximately 13.5"x 9.5"x .56" and is laser engraved on one side (decorative) with the Town Seal and a blank back side for food prep. It is tough, thick, sturdy and is made from 100% environmentally friendly bamboo which is 16% stronger than maple! **\$25**

Books Back in Stock:

Connecticut 169 Club by Martin Podskoch, an East Hampton resident compiled interesting information for his Connecticut Travel Guide Book on the 169 towns, cities and villages in the State of Connecticut in the hopes of encouraging people to visit them all. **\$25.00**

Portland Farms: Then and Now by Portland resident Susanne Anderson, takes the reader on a journey through the farming history of the Town of Portland — includes information and photos on over 100 farms, starting with the Wangunks, a small Native American tribe that inhabited and farmed the land over 325 years ago, to the farms of the present time. **\$35.00**



**New Children's Book
The Adventures of Nibbles
Munk-Munk**

The Adventures of Nibbles Munk-Munk by Portland resident Sarah Elliott Caratasios, is the tale of a curious and tiny chipmunk with a huge heart — always on the lookout for adventure. **\$12**



**Bells from
East Hampton's
Bevin Bells**

White Bell Ornament with a choice of 3 wintry images — holly, snowman or cardinal — imprinted with Portland CT on the back. Size: 1-5/8" **\$6.50**



**Believe
Sleigh Bell
Ornament**

Celebrate the holiday season with a gold sleigh bell with Believe stamped into it and strung with red Believe ribbon. **\$4**

JINGLE & MINGLE

2022 Festival of Wreaths



**Saturday, December 3
&
Sunday, December 4**

Noon to 4PM

**Carriage House behind
329 Main Street**

Remembering Ruth



The Society remembers Ruth Freeburg, our long-time secretary, who died October 11. She was secretary for 16 years (1994-2009), a director for six years (2010-2015), and our liaison with the Brownstown Quorum and the Hemlock Grange. She received the William J. Van Beynum award for service to our organization,

the Spirit of Portland Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Catboat Association. She was also a beloved member of many local organizations through the years. Among her many roles as a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, singing in the choir was her favorite.

Ruth worked as an RN at New Britain General Hospital, and later at Middlesex Hospital, for many years. She was truly a catboat enthusiast--along with her husband Jack, she and their six children spent many years sailing their catboat, including an 8-month adventure to southern Florida in 1960-1961. More favorites over the years were beach trips with her family, lobster, and seeing the Red Sox win four World Series.

Our members fondly recall Ruth as a dedicated volunteer, always ready to contribute, being calm and easy to work with, and having a ready smile along side her dry sense of humor. We miss her and send condolences to her family.

COMING THIS WINTER

If you missed any of the October cemetery tours, watch the RiverEast and Facebook for when they will be brought back to life (so to speak), only virtually this time...stay tuned!



President's Letter

Dear members, neighbors, and friends of the Portland Historical Society: Probably like you, I am not sure where the summer went...but I am so pleased to announce that our Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History on Main Street has finally been able to re-open after a long pause due to the Covid pandemic. We've paid some much-needed attention to getting our house back in order, have brand new offerings for sale from our Callander Cupboard, and prepared a portrait exhibit on Portland legend General Seth Overton [1759-1852] that debuted in early August.

We have just completed an enjoyable tour program of all four Portland cemeteries during Sunday afternoons in October that I hope you were able to experience. And after a 13-year hiatus we have formed an ad hoc committee to dust off our Bylaws and take a fresh look at our mission and governance, to stay relevant with the hope of better serving you, our members. Our annual Festival of Wreaths soon returns to kick off the final month of the calendar year. We can't wait to see you!

Before you get buried in the rush of the impending holiday season, please consider **renewing your membership** with The Portland Historical Society. We count on your generous annual support so that we can continue to offer the community well-researched programs and interesting historic exhibits. You have our heartfelt thanks. Read on!

~ Julie Macksoud



Guy Lardizzone (center), past President of the Portland Lions Club, presents a copy of the club charter from 1950 to Bob McDougall, PHS Museum Director, and Julie Macksoud, President of the Portland Historical Society, at the Waverly Senior Center on October 12.



Society members Susan Young, Martha Lutecki and Deb Freitag sold special items and jewelry when the Society participated in the Grange's September Tag Sale. New products from the Callander Cupboard were big hits — a cutting board with the town seal, and two pottery pieces from Westerwald Pottery.

FESTIVAL OF WREATHS

December
3 & 4
Noon - 4pm

Carriage House
Behind 329 Main St

SAVE THE DATE!

NEWSLETTER - PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com 860-342-5455

Printing by DEL Printing, LLC, 42 Gospel Lane, Portland, CT - 860-342-2959

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Have you joined or renewed your membership?
Check the expiration date on your mailing label
And THANK YOU for your support!

Address Service Requested

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PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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