



# PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

## March 2023 Newsletter

Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

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

[www.PortlandHistSoc.com](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.com)

Email: [PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com](mailto:PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com)

Vol. 49 No. 1

### 27th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day

On **Saturday, May 13th**, the Society will hold its 2023 Town-Wide Tag Sales Day - the 27th year of this event. It is exciting to be able to offer this event to our community and we will hopefully be back to a full compliment of over 100 sales around town streets and on country roads.

The Society is planning to hold our usual big tag sale of donated items in the yard of the Ruth Callander House. Our bake sale will be in its own space at the Callander House - under a canopy (weather permitting) or on the porch.

The Tag Sales Day is always the Society's largest fund raiser of the year supporting the maintenance and projects of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History along with other Society activities to collect, preserve and share Portland's history.

Portland's big Tag Sales Day gives you an opportunity to hold a sale and be listed on our map or donate your items to our sale. **Registrations for your sale are open online or by paper for \$20 until March 31. Registration between April 1-30 is \$25.**

As always, we will produce our comprehensive map of Portland with the trail of sales and listings of addresses and items of those sales.

#### Registration to be on the map is available:

- online at [www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org)
- by filling out and mailing the form in this newsletter.
- by picking up a form from the front porch of the Ruth Callander House at 492 Main Street and mailing — available beginning March 24.

**All registrations must be submitted by April 30.**

**THANK YOU, MEMBERS AND DONORS,  
FOR MAKING EVERYTHING WE DO  
POSSIBLE! RENEW OR JOIN NOW**  
Check your membership year on the  
mailing label. Mail a check or go to  
our secure Square site from  
<http://portlandhistsoc.org/>

**The Portland Historical Society  
presents  
Celebrating Cemeteries  
Spring 2023**

**We will be holding visual tours of  
Portland's four cemeteries.**

**--- Visual Tour Schedule ---**  
(4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday's, presented at our monthly membership meetings.)

<b>March 28</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Trinity</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Swedish</b>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>Center</b>

- Program begins after 7 PM business meeting at the Portland Library's Mary Flood Room.
- Tours highlight 10 sites of notable residents and families that we will honor while learning a little history.
- Program will last about one hour.

**Open to the Public – Free of charge**  
P. O. Box 98 - Portland, Conn. - 06480

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**



**DEB F**

**Portland Historical Society**

We like to recognize the contributions of our volunteers. Deb Freitag just finished her first year as a board member and has found numerous ways to contribute to the Society including sewing slip covers to protect the portraits in our display area, taking photos at our events and providing refreshments at our museum openings.

## **Portland Historical Society**

### **Note from the President, Julie Macksoud**

**It is my distinct pleasure** to provide you with a brief recap of a productive year that has led us to the doorway of our 50th year of operation. We were fortunate to be the recipient of a few grants this past year, including a Cultural Fund Grant from CT Humanities to improve our information technology. We have also applied for a Good-to-Great 2.0 grant. This is a program of the Department of Economic and Community Development, which will provide funding for much needed improvements to our museum such as roof repair and better climate control. In 2022 we presented three exhibits, provided five cemetery tours, and created three newsletters. We partnered with no less than thirteen local organizations, including the Portland Grange, Boys Scouts Troop 2, and the Portland Garden Club. We held our 26th annual town-wide tag sale in May and our 11th annual Festival of Wreaths in December.

**Our Trustees** are reviewing our long-range plan to update and refresh it. Also, a committee to review our by-laws has been formed. We have thoughtfully weighed in on local land use issues as well as requests for demolition permits of historically important buildings. Maintaining the integrity of a historic home is a constant and expensive challenge, but also an honor and a most worthwhile investment. Careful and continued stewardship of our society's 300 year old Ruth Callander House is an ongoing labor of love.

**We welcomed** three new directors to our board this past year: Susan Bransfield, Deb Freitag and Frank Winiski. We are also deeply indebted to two board members who stepped back last Fall, Claire Frisbie and Alexia Belperron. Their passion for preservation, and longtime service has left us a stronger organization. They offered their time and expertise to a wide range of tasks that has rendered us better organized and more solvent. We gratefully acknowledge the numerous contributions they have made to the Portland Historical Society over many years.

**Our success, during the next 50 years** will depend on many things: working toward a more robust and diverse membership appealing to, and engaging with, students in the next generation, and investing in our physical plant to keep it solid, safe and accessible. We plan on offering new historical programs and exhibits, assisting researchers, and expanding our audience in both our physical and virtual spaces in 2023. We will be honoring our Portland founders by telling their stories and making them tangible for future generations.

**Please join us** as we reflect on all we have accomplished over the past five decades, and on all the dreams and plans we hope to realize in the next 50 years, as we stay mindful of our legacy and true to our mission. If you are not a member of the PHS this would be an auspicious year to join us and share your talents. Your support inspires – if not allows – us to fulfill our mission and serve this special community. We would love your help, ideas, and participation as we celebrate this important milestone, and develop the special events that are in the planning process. Please stay tuned for opportunities in which you can participate!

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

March 28	Monthly Meeting/St. Mary's Cemetery Program at Portland Library 7:00 pm
April 16	Museum open to public 2:00-4:00 pm
April 22 & 29	Tag Sale Donation Drop Off at Callander House 9:00-11:00 am
April 25	Monthly Meeting/Trinity Cemetery Program at Portland Library 7:00 pm
May 13	<b>Town Wide Tag Sales Day</b> 8:30 am-2:30 pm (rain or shine)
May 14	Museum open to public 2:00-4:00 pm
May 23	Monthly Meeting/Swedish Cemetery Program at Portland Library 7:00 pm
June 3	Brownstone Quorum Event at Riverfront Park 11:00 am-3:00 pm
June 11	Museum open to public 2:00-4:00 pm
June 24	Juneteenth Celebration at Riverfront Park 11:00 am-3:00 pm
June 27	Monthly Meeting/Center Cemetery Program at Portland Library 7:00 pm
July 9	Museum open to public 2:00-4:00 pm



# 27th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales

Sponsored by The Portland Historical Society  
Benefiting the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

## PLAN A TAG SALE

RAIN  
OR SHINE

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

RAIN  
OR SHINE

**Register online at [www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org) (starting March 1)**  
**or use this form and mail - Questions? email: [PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com)**

<u>BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:</u>		<u>THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL PROVIDE:</u>
⇒ You profit from your sale. ⇒ The Historical Society will help to promote your Tag Sale. ⇒ Your contributions will help fund the Museum of Portland History		⇒ Location Maps with sale item types ⇒ Advertising ⇒ Tag Sale Hints ⇒ House Marker & Trail Number Sign
Pick	How it works:	Register by April 30 to be on Map
1	Have a sale at your own home or neighborhood <i>for your benefit</i> .	Registered by March 31- \$20 Registered April 1 to 30 - \$25
2	Donate items to benefit the Historical Society tag sale at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History.	Items may be delivered to the Society: Saturdays, April 22 & 29 at the Callander House garage, 492 Main St. from 9-11 AM. Pickup also available. Email <a href="mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com">PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com</a> or call 860-982-1486

**ALSO visit the BAKE SALE at the Ruth Callander House on Tag Sales Day**

*Questions? Contact [PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com) or call 860-982-1486*

**Register online at [PortlandHistSoc.org](http://PortlandHistSoc.org) with credit card OR Clip form and mail to:**

*Portland Historical Society Tag Sale, P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480 - checks to: Portland Historical Society*

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Contact Information Name:	Item types map listing - <b>40 characters MAX</b>	By March 31	April 1 to April 30
Sale Address:	<input type="checkbox"/> Home sale	\$20	\$25
Phone:	Email:		
	Will you have Tag Sale if it rains?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



**27th Annual TOWN-WIDE TAG SALES DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023**  
**Registration and information inside & online at [www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org)**



A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Logan Prince, Troop 2 Senior Patrol Leader by Trustee Bob McDougall at the troop meeting March 8, for the troops work last year to help prepare poles for our Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale.  
*Photo by Michael Tierney*



**NEWSLETTER - Editor: Susan Alyson Young [PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com)**  
**Printing by DEL Printing, LLC, 42 Gospel Lane, Portland, CT - 860-342-2959**

***March 2023 Newsletter!***

**2023 SOCIETY OFFICERS**  
 President - Julie Mackson  
 1st Vice President - Amy Knous  
 2nd Vice President - Susan Bransfield  
 Recording Secretary - open  
 Corresponding Secretary - Linda Cunningham  
 Treasurer - James McCabe  
**DIRECTORS**  
 Deborah Freitag  
 Frank Winski  
 Sarah Perruccio  
**TRUSTEES**  
 Deborah Ellsworth  
 George Gilbert  
 Christine Sullivan  
**COLLECTIONS BOARD**  
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 Frank Connelly  
 George Law  
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**Have you joined or renewed your membership?  
 Check the date on the mailing label**

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**PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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