



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

Ruth Callander House Museum, 492 Main St., Portland, CT., 06480, Tel: 860-342-5455
www.PortlandHistSoc.Org

15th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale

Sponsored by The Portland Historical Society, Inc. to benefit the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

PLAN A TAG SALE

Saturday, May 7th 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, RAIN OR SHINE

The Tag Sale Committee invites you to attend a **planning get-together:**

At Membership Program, Senior Center, Tuesday, **March 22** at 7:30 pm;
& Tag Sale Meeting, Ruth Callander House, Wed., **April 13** at 7:30 pm.

For information call: Ruth Freeburg 860-342-3636
Chris Sullivan 860-342-4105
Deb Ellsworth 860-342-1927

How can YOU help? - here are some of the things volunteers do to make May 7th Tag Sale Day a success for everyone:



1. Solicit Sponsor Ads for Map
2. Publicity - sign-ups, donations of goods, etc.
3. Supply sign-up sheets to several locations
4. Print and send Tag Sale Hints to participants
5. Construct/repair Signs and Sign poles
6. Organize and print map
7. Call members for donations to Bake Sale (about 15 people)
8. Obtain hot dogs, beverages, etc. for food sale
9. Receive donated items at Callander House, Saturday April 16, 23, 30 at 9-11 AM.
10. Deliver and pick up Tag Sale sign poles (about 20 people)
11. Set up Society Tag Sale at Callander House garage and Grange
12. 15 to 20 tag sale workers & cooks, helpers, bake sale workers(10); Traffic directors
13. Transfer leftover treasures to garage from Grange at 2:30 pm (3 or 4 people)





Have you renewed your Membership?

 Your membership helps to support the **programs that preserve Portland's history** through the Museum, monthly programs, preservation of historic sites, and education of residents of all ages. Please check your address label: it reflects your membership year. Thank you for your help.

NOTES . . .

Society Happenings

At the **Society's Annual Meeting** in January **William J. Van Beynum awards** were presented to: Pat Crowther, Eleanor Crowther, Doris Sherrow-Heidenis, Professor Indira Karamcheti and Regina Woltmann. **Service awards** went to Vivian Dower and Susanne Anderson. The recipients of the Van Beynum and service awards are *recognized for their volunteer work to preserve Portland's history*.

Eleanor Crowther served as Vice-President and President and was instrumental in guiding the Society through the acquisition of the Ruth Callander House. For fourteen years she has chaired the Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale. She has served on many committees, including chairing the Ways and Means committee and the Callander House committee.

Pat Crowther has served on the Finance Board since it was established in 1993. He has worked on and overseen many projects required to open and maintain the museum; everything from painting to plumbing. He has been our setup and cleanup man for all fourteen Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales.

Doris Sherrow-Heidenis has spent many years researching and writing about Portland's history. She collaborated with others on *The History and Architecture of Portland*, a book that serves as a primary resource on the town's history and buildings. Doris has presented programs for the Society, worked with acquisitions in the Museum, and has collaborated on the research and writing for our annual calendars. She willingly assists genealogists and others researching Portland's early settlers. Recently, Doris began serving on the Collections Board.

Indira Karamcheti is a professor at Wesleyan University. In fall 2009, she developed and taught a course entitled "Oral Histories and the Portland Brownstone Quarry." Her students interviewed individuals familiar with various aspects of the brownstone quarries, and presented to the Society the oral narratives they produced.

Regina Woltmann, a 25+ year member, has served as Recording Secretary, President and Director. Regina has been long time chair of the Program committee and is a Trustee. In addition to her work on many committees, she has helped with many events, and was key in the development of the Military Exhibit and Wedding Dress Exhibit.

Vivian Dower is a Charter member who has served the Society in many capacities especially collecting acquisitions and creating exhibits. She has always been available when volunteers were needed. Her true love for clothes and costumes makes her invaluable when it comes to dressing the mannequins. Most recently, Vivian served as a Trustee.

Susanne Anderson was a Director, Vice-President, President, and served as Ways and Means chair. Sue has been instrumental in raising money through events: the House

Tour, the Victorian Tea, and the Secret Garden Tour; and by creating many products: a Children's Coloring Book, a cookbook, magnets with historic scenes, and 2010's holiday ornaments. She created the Farms Exhibit and is working to complete a book based on the material.

Officers and Board members for 2011 were elected. The new board members are: President Deb Ellsworth; First Vice President Claire Frisbie; Second Vice President Martha Lutecki; Recording Secretary Linda Cunningham; Corresponding Secretary Luiza McDougall; Treasurer Jim McCabe; Directors Gene Sullivan, George Gilbert and Ruth Freeburg.

In other news, following the Society's Bylaws update, the **Trustees Board** was formed last year with *Vivan Dower, Phyllis Frisbie, Robert McDougall, Christine Sullivan and Regina Woltmann* serving. They have been meeting monthly working on long range planning for the Society. To date a significant visioning process has taken place which will form the basis for goal setting and action items.

Recently the new **Collections Board** was seated. Members are *Rick Gildersleeve, Doris Sherrow-Heidenis and Susan Young*. Their first task is to research and draft a Collections Policy for the Society. After approval, this policy will be the basis for future action of the Board.

Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

The sesquicentennial remembrance of the beginning of the **Civil War** is celebrated with an exhibit of items from the collection and loans. The exhibit includes a number of pieces the Union soldier carried, including the over-cape, supply bag, bullet case, powder horn and rifle. Photographs and letters of Civil War soldiers who were ancestors of Portland residents are also shown.

In another area, a selection of **quilts from the Society's collection** is displayed along with a traditional rope bed. Quilts in a number of varied yet traditional patterns are included, dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, the *Album Quilt of the Gildersleeve Family* from the mid 19th century is displayed. This quilt contains signature blocks of family members and friends of the era.

The **Gildersleeves** are further represented with a number of items from their various businesses. Tools and ships of S. Gildersleeve & Sons Shipyard; a day ledger and container from the business and store; and the family settee of Sylvester Gildersleeve are displayed.

The Exhibits Committee continues to *welcome materials of the Civil War Era* for the ongoing exhibit. Items may be donated or loaned, and scans can be done of photographs. Please contact Deb Ellsworth at 860-342-1927 or Claire Frisbie at 860-335-8581.



15th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale
Sponsored by The Portland Historical Society
Benefiting the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

PLAN A TAG SALE

Saturday, May 7th

8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

RAIN
OR SHINE

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:

- ⇒ The Historical Society will help to promote your Tag Sale.
- ⇒ Your contributions will help fund the Museum of Portland History.
- ⇒ You profit from your sale.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL PROVIDE:

- ⇒ Location Maps with sale item types
- ⇒ Advertising
- ⇒ Tag Sale Hints
- ⇒ House Marker Sign

Option	How it works:	Rec'd by Society by April 9th	Rec'd by Society Apr. 10 - 23 <u>deadline</u>
1.	Have a sale at your own home or neighborhood <i>for your benefit.</i>	\$20.	\$25.
or 2.	Tailgate your tag sale at Hemlock Grange parking area, jct. Rte. 17 & Sage Hollow Rd	\$20.	\$25.
or 3.	Donate items to benefit the Historical Society tag sales at Hemlock Grange and Callander House. (No clothing, textbooks, TV's or unwieldy items, please.)	Items may be delivered to the Society Saturdays, April 16, 23, 30 at the Callander House garage, 492 Main St. from 9-11 AM. Pickup also available. Call 860-342-3636.	

ALSO BAKE & TAG SALES with coffee, soda & hot dogs at Hemlock Grange, 17 Sage Hollow Road on Tag Sale Day.



Clip and mail to Portland Historical Society Tag Sale, P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480
Make checks payable to: Portland Historical Society

Contact Information: Name: _____	Options (Please check all that apply)	BY April 9	April 10 - 23
Sale Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Home sale	\$20.	\$25.
Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tailgate at Grange	\$20.	\$25.
Email: _____	Items (circle or list): toys/tools/misc./_____		
Will you have Tag Sale if it rains? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Must be received by April 23 for listing on Map		

CALENDAR

All programs are held at the Portland Library,
Mary Flood Room, at 7:30 pm., unless otherwise indicated.

March 22 - "Civil War Era Clothing" by Kandie Carle, well-known local actress, shares humor and intriguing anecdotes while discussing clothing, lifestyle, manners, etiquette and customs. **7:30 pm at Portland Senior Center**

April 3 - Civil War, Quilts, Gildersleeves Exhibits - Museum open 2-4 pm

April 13 - Tag Sale Meeting - Museum at 7:30 pm

April 26 - "Music of the Civil War" program by Middletown-native Tom Callinan, formerly honored as Connecticut's first "Official State Troubadour" has presented thousands of performances related to historic people, events and patriotic themes over the years. As we commemorate the anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, Tom will entertain us with Civil War era music, patriotic songs, and perhaps an Irish song or two.

May 1 - Civil War, Quilts, Gildersleeves Exhibit - Museum open 2-4 pm

May 7 - TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE - 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

May 24 - "Wangunk & English Encounters" program by Jim Sarbaugh, local resident, and lifetime member of the Portland Historical Society, will discuss the background and history of Wangunk and English encounters in southern New England and the first English settlements in the lower Connecticut Valley.

June 5 - Civil War & Portland Exhibit - Museum open 2-4 pm

June 28 - Pot-luck Supper - program and location to be announced.

NEWSLETTER - Phyllis and Claire Frisbie, 3-18-11

Newsletter!

FINANCE BOARD
Pat Crowther
James Elder
George Law
Rick Gildersleeve
Doris Sherrow-Heidens
Susan Young

Regina Wolmann
Christine Sullivan
Robert McDougall

TRUSTEES
Phyllis Frisbie

Eugene Sullivan
George Gilbert
Ruth Freeburg

DIRECTORS

President - Deborah Ellsworth
1st Vice President - Claire Frisbie
2nd Vice President - Martha Lutecki
Recording Secretary - Linda Cunningham
Corresponding Secretary - Luitza McDougall
Treasurer - James McCabe

2011 SOCIETY OFFICERS

15TH ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE
APPLICATION ENCLOSED!

Address Service Requested

Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 19
Portland, CT
06480