



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - Deborah Ellsworth

What a summer this has been! Tucked in between the fourth of July and Labor Day, we've had a torrential rainfall, temperatures over 100 degrees, an earthquake and Hurricane Irene. Let's hope we have some true autumnal weather soon!

The Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History was open on Saturday, June 11 as part of **Connecticut's Open House Day**. Many visitors stopped by to check out our "Quilts, the Civil War, and the Gildersleeves" exhibit and to sample our Civil War-era light refreshments that included applesauce cookies, Boston cream pie, strawberry shortcake, lemonade, iced tea and switchel, a concoction of water, vinegar, ginger and molasses, long a staple in Northeast hayfields as a thirst quencher and restorative. Many thanks to our docents for that day and to Fiona Fine for providing an informative and entertaining demonstration of spinning. Portland residents and Society members provided additional memorabilia for our Civil War exhibit. Thanks to Anne Forella, Thomas Johnson, Linda and Gary Yohe, Joanne Luppi and Richard Sweet for their family photos, documents and artifacts of that difficult time in our nation's history. Thanks to Rick Gildersleeve for the loan of Gildersleeve shipyard and store memorabilia.

Our **Trustees** continue to work on a long term plan for our future. The **Collections Board** has prepared the draft for a collections policy that will help us focus on collecting items, information and documents that will preserve Portland's rich history.

After a brief hiatus, we will begin offering another year of fascinating **programs** on the fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning on Tuesday, September 27. Check out RiverEast for details each month and the Calendar on page 4 of this newsletter.

(continued on page 2)



Fiona Fine teaches John Peterson the finer points of carding wool on Open House Day.

FASHION SHOW & TEA

On Sunday, October 16, 2011 from 2 to 4 pm, the fashion show and tea, "**Fashion through the Years**", will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William Street in Portland, and hosted jointly with the Society. The event highlight will be a runway fashion show featuring local models wearing fashions and accessories, celebrating over 150 years of fashion. Eight vintage cars will also be on exhibit in the church parking lot.

In addition to the fashion show, guests will have the opportunity to participate in a basket raffle and shop at boutiques featuring handmade crafts, Halloween candy, vintage jewelry, and other gift items.

Refreshments, consisting of an assortment of tasty sweets, tea, coffee, and punch, will be served.

At Zion's booth, shoppers will be able to purchase homemade chocolate candy, handcrafted note cards, birch bark houses, ribbon rose pins, knitted items, hand-painted ornaments, and much more.

(continued on page 2)

In loving memory of Historical Society members and supporters who passed away in recently. We apologize if we have missed anyone and ask you to please contact us if we have not listed a loved one who was one of our supporters.

Barbara Chapman
John Cunningham
Joseph Irving Epstein, MD
John F. Gotta
William Brian Perruccio

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - cont. from pg. 1

It's almost here - **Fashion Show and Tea** we are co-sponsoring with Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 16, featuring vintage fashions from the late 1800's to 2010. Write it into your calendars and purchase your tickets early (see next page). I hope to see you all there.

Again this fall, we will have a **booth at the Portland Fair**, Friday, October 7, through Sunday, October 9. If you have a couple of hours during that weekend to volunteer at the booth, please let us know. Call Deb at 860-342-1927.

The exhibit committee is looking for new **exhibit ideas**. If you are active in a local organization and would like to put together an exhibit about the history of your group in Portland, let us know. The Girls Scouts are celebrating a big anniversary soon and have already indicated interest. Call me at 860-342-1927 with exhibit ideas/offers.

Hope we all have a great fall, enjoy the outdoors, and I hope to see you soon at the museum.



FASHION SHOW & TEA - cont. from pg. 1

At the Society's jewelry sale, you'll find an array of beautiful vintage costume, designer, and fashion jewelry including signed and unsigned necklaces, bracelets, rings, brooches, pins, earrings, and watches. Society gift items will also be available.

Many photographs and other memorabilia, showcasing the various fashion design changes over the past 150 years, will also be on display in the Fellowship Hall. Other exhibits will include wedding fashions through the years; designs by Karl Lagerfeld, the famous German fashion designer; a G. Fox & Co. display; as well as a special exhibit of items from the Society's collection, which will feature a wedding gown from the Brainerd family wedding in 1828.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children age 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased by mailing the order form located on page 3 in this newsletter or by calling Elaine Cote at 860-342-2216, Marie Keser at 860-342-2847 or Sue Anderson at 860-342-0433. Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Please call Sue at 860-342-0433 for more information or if you would like to provide a dessert (cookies or bars) for this event. Proceeds from this event will benefit the programs of the Portland Historical Society and Zion Lutheran Church.



Above: Harper's Barn undergoes renovation this summer.

Left: State Rep. Christie Carpino (left) and Helen Higgins, Executive Director of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (right) present a barn restoration grant to Judy and John Harper.

"Fashion through the Years"

Celebrating over 150 years of Fashion



Presented by

**The Portland Historical Society
and Zion Lutheran Church**

Sunday, October 16, 2011

2-4 pm



Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William Street, Portland, CT

The event will feature a runway fashion show highlighting fashions and accessories from nearly every decade beginning with the Civil War era through the present time.

Coffee, tea, punch, and an assortment of tasty desserts will be served.

<u>Advance tickets only:</u> Adults: \$20 Children: \$15 * *Age 12 & under	<u>Also featured:</u> -Antique Cars -Basket Raffle -Chocolate Candy -Crafts -Fashion Exhibits -G. Fox & Co. Exhibit -Photo Gallery -Vintage Jewelry
<u>For tickets, call:</u> Elaine: 860-342-2216 Marie: 860-342-2847 or Sue: 860-342-0433	

Fashion through the Years



Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of Adult Tickets: _____ x \$20.00 each

Number of Children Tickets: _____ x \$15.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed for tickets: _____

Make check payable to:

Zion Lutheran Church

Mail ticket request to:

Susanne Anderson, 82 Fairway Drive, Portland, CT 06480-1600

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your tickets mailed to you; otherwise, we will hold your tickets at the door.

2011 CALENDAR

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

Sept 27 - "Fashionable First Ladies" program
by L.S. Johnson

Oct 2 - Portland Exhibit - Museum open 2-4 pm

**Oct 7-9 - Portland Agricultural Fair -
Portland display - fairgrounds**

**Oct 16 - "Fashion through the Years" - fashion show
and tea at Zion Lutheran Church 2-4 pm**

**Oct 25 - "Aerial Photography of the Connecticut
River Valley" program by Tom Walsh
from Shoreline Aerial Photography, LLC**

Nov 6 - Portland Exhibit - Museum open 2-4 pm

CALLANDER HOUSE CUPBOARD

2012 Calendar - Portland in the Civil War.....	\$8
Portland Scenes Ornament or Tile \$12, Mug \$9.50	
Mahogany Penholder with Pen.....	\$12
Portland Recipes and Reflections.....	\$8
Letters to Harry by Pru Taylor and TJ Palmer.....	\$25
Coloring & Activity Book of Portland History.	\$3.50
Images of Portland by Bob McDougall.....	\$20
St. Clements by Pru Taylor and TJ Palmer.....	\$15
Previous Year Calendars.....	\$5
Antique Photo Postcards	\$.75 each or 3/ \$1
Antique Pictures Magnets ... \$2 ea, 3/\$5, set 20/\$30	
Portland Scenes Notepad.. (50 pgs., 5 scenes) 2/\$3	
Portland Historical Society Pen	\$2
Portland Scenes Tea Towel	\$5

Please include \$2 shipping per \$10 of order
Purchases fund Society projects

Call 860-342-1927 to order or mail to: Portland Historical Society, PO Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

NEWSLETTER - Claire Frisbie, 9-19-11, 860-335-8581

Sept. 2011 Newsletter

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