



## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

# March 2025 Newsletter

Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

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

[www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org) Email: [PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com](mailto:PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com)

Vol. 51 No. 1

## 29th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales

Sponsored by the Portland Historical Society

Benefiting the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

# TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE

**Saturday, May 10th**

RAIN  
OR SHINE

**8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

RAIN  
OR SHINE

Also visit the **BAKE SALE** at the Ruth Callander House on Tag Sale Day

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

### From the President Susan Bransfield

We ended 2024 with a very successful 13th annual Festival of Wreaths—Jingle & Mingle. This is one of our biggest fundraisers (in addition to the Annual Town Wide Tag Sale, to be held May 10), which helps to fund the care and upkeep of our collection and the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. I would like to thank Deborah Ellsworth, Trustee, for spearheading this event, along with so many volunteers and creative wreath makers! We also are very grateful to the Hemlock Grange for letting us host the event at their hall for the first time this year. Thank you to all who supported this fun festival.

We have had a busy start to 2025. Our annual meeting was held on January 26 at the Portland Waverly Senior Center. The annual budget and executive board nominations were approved by our members, and Bob McDougall gave a wonderful presentation on the “First 50 Years of the Portland Historical Society.” Bob included many of our major accomplishments over the years, along with pictures of all the members who have served as President of our Society from 1973-2025.

In February, we completed the disassembly of the circa 1820 Gildersleeve Store. Next, we will be working with our architect on our plans for the re-assembly of the building. We are extremely grateful to the Larson family for donating this historic store to the Portland Historical Society. We look forward to the re-built Gildersleeve Store and celebrating the rich history of shipbuilding in Portland. See our next newsletter for pictures and details.

I want to thank all our members and friends of Portland Historical Society. We deeply appreciate everyone who helps to collect, preserve, and share Portland history.

# Voices of Portland



Above: (L to R) Bob McDougall, David Roane, Barbara Shaw, Patricia Hall-Jemison, Rev. Laurence Woods.

Left: Program material from the Voices of Portland event.

Below: Panelists for the Voices of Portland (L to R) David Roane, Rev. Laurence Woods, Patricia Hall-Jemison, Barbara Shaw.



Left: Poet Laureate of Portland, Naji Chester-Payne.

Right: John Dillon, Bob McDougall, Dave Kuzminski.

Below: Susan Bransfield and Martha Lutecki share with Barbara Roane pictures and information of the area where redevelopment occurred under the bridge.





# PANELISTS

## **PATRICIA HALL JEMISON:**

Ms. Jemison's family has a deep connection to Portland and Middlesex County. Her mother, Lillian Jones, was born on Freestone Ave. and her father Charles L. Johnson owned Autobody Repair on St. John Street in Middletown. Of Charles and Lillian's eight children, four served in the US military while Patricia attended the American International College in Springfield, MA. Patricia worked as a Prevention Specialist and was a Master Teaching Artist of Dance, Stepping, and Double Dutch for grades K – 12. She developed and trained teams for competitions and exhibitions including the Double Dutch Competitive Team at Gildersleeve Elementary School. In addition to working at the Wesleyan University College Prep, Patricia was employed by several Portland businesses including Standard Knapp in personnel & payroll, by the Portland Dukes as a cheerleading coach, and by Tommy's Pizza during her college breaks. Patricia held many roles here in our town; developing Tykia Modern Dance for the Portland High School, as a Midget Football Cheerleader, playing on the Portland Women's Softball League, and serving as the Community Liaison for Chatham Court, where she still helps with the Chatham Court Reunions.

Her dreams for the future of Portland include utilizing her talents and skills with Portland Youth Programs, being a professional presence for black and white students, and seeing more people of color in the Portland school system.

## **BARBARA E. SHAW:**

Born and raised in Portland, CT, Barbara attended Portland Central School, Valley View, Portland Jr. High School, Portland High School; class of '69. She grew up and lived at 3 High Street (Anderson Farm Supply), and moved to Middletown in 1975.

Her mother, Eugenie "passed on to me to always help and care for everyone in need. Portland will always be home to me."

## **DAVID ROANE:**

Born in Harlem, New York City; on March 3, 1942, David moved to 3 High Street, Portland, CT in 1945. In 1948 the family moved to Veterans Terrace (Long River Village) for two short years, but then returned to live at 3 High Street. Mr. Roane attended Portland Central School, Valley View, Portland Jr. High School. He left Portland High School while in 9th grade to attend the Vinal Regional Technical School (Electrical trade) class of '60. In 1960 he joined the United States Marine Corps; serving until 1964. It was during his first month in the Corps that he learned that his birth name was David Roane. After a brief discussion and explanation of why he was raised with the last name of Shaw, his mother and he agreed that he would keep his birth name, David Roane. After serving the majority of his time in the Corps in Yokosuka, Atsugi Japan, he served briefly in Camp Pendleton (San Diego County) California. In 1966 he returned home to Portland CT, where he met and married his wife, Barbara Jordon. Barbara was raised in the Bottom, as it was called by residents who lived there - under the bridge. As well said by his baby sister, Barbara Shaw, their mother, Eugenie passes on to them to always help and care for everyone in need.

## **REV. LAURENCE WOODS:**

Laurence Woods is the Senior Pastor of the Church of God's Grace in Middletown CT. Married Marie Woods of the Bronx, NY, and together they have four daughters, one son, six grandsons, and two great-grandsons. Laurence is the son of the late Pastor Lorenzo L. Woods and Lady Janese Woods. Laurence has three brothers and one sister. He lived in Portland for the first twelve years of his life before moving to Middletown. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School (class of '69) where he played football as a running back and received many awards for his outstanding performances on the playing field. He also ran track for three of his high school years but football was his passion. He was nominated as one of the top football players in New England, and was a perennial selection for the New Haven Register Allstate Team. Upon graduating he received a football scholarship to the University of Nebraska where he played football as a running back. After college, Laurence tried out for several professional teams such as the Detroit Lions (NFL) and the Detroit Wheels of the USFL. Very determined, he went on to play as an undrafted free agent for the NFL Kansas City Chiefs Farm Team and also played for several other Farm Teams affiliated with the NFL, such as the Detroit Giants and the Michigan Indians. Laurence retired from the workforce in 2021 and shortly after began to adhere to the call of God, walking in his father's footsteps to preach the word of God. Laurence and Marie started the Church of God's Grace in October 2021 in Middletown CT. Laurence is the founder of Mancave Ministries of CT where he mentors as well as ministers to men of all walks of life. In addition to loving to fish and attending live Jazz Concerts, Laurence is himself a jazz musician with a group he created called Smoov, and he performs as a bass player when they are in concert. Laurence is additionally known for his delicious famous barbeque spareribs. People come from surrounding areas to enjoy; he loves cooking at his place called The Bone Yard. Laurence is proud to be part of the history of the Black Bottom Community.



# Annual Portland Historical Society Meeting



*Presenter Bob McDougall*



*Presentation at our Annual Meeting on January 26th*

The following Certificates of Recognition were handed out at our Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025:

Committee on Solidarity in recognition of their collaboration with the Portland Public Library and the Portland Historical Society to co-host the Black History Month Panel on February 24, 2024 at the Brownstone Intermediate School.

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Scout Troop 2 in recognition of their Pewter Ornament Series, which has featured over twenty Portland Landmarks since the series began in 1996, including the 2024 ornament celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church.

Zion Lutheran Church in recognition of their 150th Anniversary Celebration 1874—2024. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary we remember and appreciate that we were able to hold many of our early monthly meetings in your fellowship hall.

Jim Landry in appreciation of his many years of support for the Portland Historical Society, both personally and through his company Ever Green Landscaping including assisting with our Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale, our annual Festival of Wreaths, Center Cemetery Tours and most recently for designing and installing a new front walk to the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History.

Brownstone Quorum in recognition of three new historical interpretive signs at the national landmark Brownstone Quarries and the Portland Riverfront Park. With funding from the Connecticut Humanities, they tell the stories of the quarries, shipping/shipbuilding and the railway connection.



*Sarah Perruccio, Jim McCabe and Julie Macksoud*



*Nancy Goodwin and Bob McDougall*



*Kathy Richards and Bob McDougall*

## 2025 Upcoming Events

- 4/13/25 - Museum Open 2-4pm
- 4/27/25 - Brownstone Quorum Annual meeting  
*Presentation of Brownstone Timeline*
- 4/28/25 - Americans with No Address  
*Documentary and Discussion on Homelessness*
- 5/10/25 - Town Wide Tag Sale
- 5/31/25 - Quarry Celebration Day 10am-4pm  
*Sponsored by Brownstone Quorum*
- 6/8/25 - Museum Open 2-4pm
- 6/14/25 - Juneteenth at Portland High School 1-5pm
- 10/18/25 - House Tour - more details tbd
- 12/6-7/25 - Festival of Wreaths - Hemlock Grange

**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>

◻ ◻ SAVE THE DATE ◻ ◻

Celebrate Freedom Day

# Juneteenth

7TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

**June 14, 2025 ◻ 12-5PM**

**Portland Middle School  
93 High Street ◻ Portland, CT**

For more info, to sign up as a vendor, or to volunteer,  
contact [portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com)



## 29th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale Day

On Saturday, May 10, the Society will hold its 2025 Town-Wide Tag Sale Day — the 29th year of this event. It's exciting to be able to offer this event to our community. There have been approximately 3,000 tag sales in 28 years. We look forward to hosting over 100 tag sales on downtown streets and country roads of Portland, giving hundreds of folks six hours to bargain shop!

The Society is planning to hold our own big tag sale of donated items under the tents in the yard of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. Our Bake Sale will be on the porch at the Callander House.

The Annual Tag Sale Day is always the Society's largest fundraiser of the year supporting the maintenance of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History along with other Society efforts to collect, preserve and share Portland's history.

Tag Sale Day gives you an opportunity to hold a sale and be listed on our official map or you can donate items to our sale. Registrations for your sale are open online or by paper for \$20 until March 31. Registration between April 1 - 27 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.com](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.com)
- By filling out and mailing, with payment, the form in this newsletter.
- By picking up a form from the front porch of the Callander House at 492 Main Street after March 15 and returning it by mail with payment.

**Registrations must be submitted by Sunday, April 27, 2025.**



*Bob McDougall & Tag Sale signs.*



*Liliana Palencia with her new bike purchased by her Dad, José Palencia at the tag sale.*



*Amy Knous and Eileen Marino.*



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Benefiting the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

## PLAN A TAG SALE

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30AM to 2:30PM**

RAIN  
OR SHINE

RAIN  
OR SHINE

**Register online at [www.PortlandHistSoc.com](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.com) (starting March 7)**  
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 27 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 27- \$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: Saturday April 26 at the Callander House garage, 492 Main St. from 9AM—Noon. 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.com](http://PortlandHistSoc.com) 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  
✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂

Contact Information Name:	Item types map listing - 40 characters MAX	By March 31	April 1 to April 27
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"/>



**29th Annual TOWN-WIDE TAG SALES DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025**  
 Registration and information inside & online at [www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org)

## New Members of the Executive Board



*Babs & George Scheer  
Directors*



*Linda Cunningham  
Finance Board*



**NEWSLETTER - Editor: Susan Alyson Young [PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com)**  
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### *March 2025 Newsletter!*

**2025 SOCIETY OFFICERS**  
 President - Susan Bransfield  
 1st Vice President - Amy Knous  
 2nd Vice President - Open  
 Recording Secretary - Linda Prelli  
 Corresponding Secretary - Linda Cunningham  
 Treasurer - David O'Brien

**DIRECTORS**  
 Deborah Freitag Babs Scheer  
 Sarah Ferruccio George Scheer  
 Susan Alyson Young

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 Christine Sullivan

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 David O'Brien Susan Alyson Young  
 Linda Cunningham

**Have you joined or renewed your membership?  
 Check the date on the mailing label!**

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