



# River & Sound

OLHSI.org

Old Lyme Historical Society  
"The history of Old Lyme – the people of Old Lyme"

Issue 22 🌿 Summer 2016

## Museum-Quality Dollhouses Donated to OLHSI



Photos: James Meehan

Mary Janvrin has graciously gifted two Tynietoy dollhouses to the Old Lyme Historical Society. The dollhouses were custom-built for Ms. Janvrin and her sister Natalie in the early 1930s by the Tynietoy company, founded by Marion Perkins and Amey Vernon in Providence, Rhode Island.

According to the Toy and Miniature Museum, Tynietoy was known for exquisite attention to detail, and antique-style furnishings based on the American decorative arts movement. Everything was handmade from furniture-quality woods, and finished with intricate detailing and handpainted motifs by students from the Rhode Island

School of Design. The company was in business from the 1920s to the early 1950s, and the furniture and dollhouses are considered highly collectible today. As adults, the Janvrin sisters visited miniature shows to seek out particularly exceptional pieces, adding many unique furnishings and fixtures to their dollhouse collections.

To protect the dollhouses and allow them to be seen by the public, Old Lyme Historical Society board member Ted Freeman constructed custom display cabinets which show the dollhouses to full advantage. Please stop by 55 Lyme Street to view these lovely dollhouses which are now part of the Society's permanent display collection.

### *The Alison C. Mitchell Archives Room*

At the Old Lyme Historical Society's Annual Meeting on June 13, it was announced that the new climate-controlled archive at 55 Lyme Street will be named in honor of Alison C. Mitchell, a founding member of the Society and a dedicated member of the Archives committee.



Photo: James Meehan

The archive space was planned and finished by the "Tuesday Morning Work Crew", a group of skilled craftsmen and carpenters who have worked tirelessly to make the historic Grange building the new home of the Society. (See photo, page 2). In addition to the archive, they have also redone the front office area, restored the ceiling, and mounted new lights and display units.

Throughout this renovation process, and indeed through the entire history of the Society, Alison Mitchell has been a driving force, ever urging the

board of trustees and membership to take on new and greater challenges, from the Publishing and Merchandising programs, to Exhibits, Oral Histories, Midsummer Festival, and raising funds and willpower to purchase and maintain the Society's new headquarters at 55 Lyme Street. Her involvement with the archives dates back to her experience with the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. and she remains deeply involved in acquiring and accessioning materials for the Archive.

In recognition of her dedication to the Old Lyme Historical Society and tireless efforts with regard to the Archives, the Tuesday Morning Work Crew presented Alison with a plaque, on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, dedicating the new room as "The Alison C. Mitchell Archives Room".



*The mission of the Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc., is to collect, preserve, and interpret the rich history of Old Lyme and its environs for the benefit of residents and visitors.*

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James Meehan

A special thank you to Mary Janvrin  
who has graciously gifted  
two Tynietoy dollhouses to the  
Old Lyme Historical Society.

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The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation held their 2016 Connecticut Preservation Award event April 6, 2016 at *Real Art Ways* in Hartford, CT. Among the recipients receiving Awards of Merit for their work in the restoration and preservation of the Old Lyme Historical Society at 55 Lyme St. in Old Lyme were the volunteer members of the OLHSI "Tuesday Morning Work Crew." "Crew" members proudly holding their Awards of Merit are (from left to right) Kevin Cole, Ted Freeman, Arthur (Skip) Beebe, Architect Stephen Joncus, and Ellis Jewett. Photograph by James Meehan.

## *From the Co-Chairs*

Things are rapidly moving forward with the Old Lyme Historical Society. Since our last report, the archives room has been finished, the climate control system for the archives has been installed, the alarm system is functioning and new lights have been installed in the main hall. Work continues on a reading room outside the archives room and planning is beginning to replace the furnace with a more energy-efficient one. Trustee Sheila Wertheimer has been coordinating the placement of new plantings around the building. At the end of April, Trustee Jennifer Hillhouse spearheaded a tag sale at the former Marc Jewelers shop. In May another successful dinner lecture was held with Town Historian John "Ned" Pfeiffer talking about transportation in 19th century Old Lyme, appropriate in light of the new railroad plans being discussed. Prior to Memorial Day, a reception, coordinated by exhibits chair Alison Mitchell and Trustee Edie Twining, was held for our exhibit of the works of Platt Hubbard, a noted Old Lyme etcher, landscape artist and printmaker. At this time, a line of products featuring his work went on sale.

At the annual meeting in May six new trustees were elected: Edie Twining, Ann Marie Jewett, Stephen Ames, Burr McDermott, Judy Read and Sandra Joncus. They replace Dyanne Rafal, Jane Cable, Karen Winters, Isaiah Griffith and Carol Winters and fill one previously vacant seat. One new officer was elected to join Co-Chairmen Tim Griswold and Mark Lander and Secretary Martha Hansen; Ann Marie Jewett will now serve as treasurer. Our annual scholarship was awarded to LOLHS senior Matthew Miller. In special recognition, the name of the scholarship was changed to the Carol Noyes Winters Scholarship (of the Old Lyme Historical Society); the new archives room was dedicated to long-time trustee, founder, Chairwoman and archivist Alison Mitchell and the Chairmen's Award went to Trustee Bob DiNapoli for his work on book sales, chair refinishing, book room conversion, archive shelving and maintenance of our sandwich board sign. Congratulations to all.

Upcoming events include a Town Band concert on July 17, participation in the Midsummer Festival with a demonstration of weaving and the placement of a community loom and perhaps a fundraising supper and a plant sale. In September restoration work will be done on our iconic stage banner, to be carried out by Curtains Without Borders, a group from Vermont which specializes in restoring/conserving painted stage curtains such as ours which dates from 1929. Volunteers in several areas are still needed. Please contact Co-Chairman Mark Lander at 860-388-3869 if you have skills that we might need. We have recently received as a donation a handsome collection of arrowheads and other Native American artifacts collected in Old Lyme. If anyone else has such a collection which they would like to donate, please get in touch with Mark. Does anyone know anything about the Old Lyme Gun Club which originally owned our building? Please stop by and visit us during Midsummer Festival or any time the flags are flying on the porch and see what we have accomplished.

*Timothy Griswold & Mark Lander*  
*Chairs, Board of Trustees, Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.*



Photo: James Meehan

## The Platt Hubbard Product Line

A successful reception was held on May 26th to exhibit some prints of Platt Hubbard's work, and launch the Society's new product line of Hubbard-inspired gift items. Hubbard was a respected architect, etcher, and printmaker. His charming map of Old Lyme has been translated to wooden trays, postcards, matted and framed prints; and a versatile kitchen/bar towel. Purchasers have reported that these items make great house gifts for parties or summer barbecues. The entire Platt Hubbard product line is for sale at the Historical Society with select items also available at The Bowerbird, Women's Exchange, and Florence Griswold Museum gift shop.



Photos: Alison Mitchell & James Meehan

## Clement Community Loom

Thanks to an introduction from former Board member Susan Morrison, The Historical Society has a new resident at 55 Lyme Street. On June 21st, a handsome Clement community loom was installed with the help of the Tuesday Morning Work crew. On long-term loan from master handweaver Stephanie Morton, the ten-foot, four-harness jack loom is approximately forty years old, and comes from Maskinongé, Quebec, Canada.

It is now being set up, and will be an important linchpin of the Society's participation in the Old Lyme Midsummer Festival on July 30th. Visitors will be invited to try their hand at this amazing craft with guidance from members of the Handweavers' Guild of Connecticut. The custom of weaving rugs and other household articles on community looms was often practiced in Grange Halls in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Society is delighted to continue the practice.



Carol Noyes Winters  
(1946-2016)

## Farewell to our Friend

In the very early days of the Historical Society circa 2005, Wendy Brainerd, who had been managing our very modest account announced that she wanted to take some classes in New York, and we needed to find a new treasurer. Jim Noyes, who knows everyone in town, said he knew a most capable candidate. At the next meeting, he escorted a tall willowy woman whom he introduced as his niece, Carol Winters. She gave us a big smile, and said that her beloved Uncle Jim had made an offer she couldn't refuse.

For the next nine years, Carol worked mightily to keep "the little engine that could" (the affectionate moniker for the Historical Society) on track. She fretted when a new project was being discussed, and would ask sternly "where is the money coming from?" while looking directly at the person waxing poetic over his or her grand scheme. She was always thrilled when the funds were somehow produced, but warned us not to get too cocky. There were always bills to be paid.

She not only kept the books, but also researched the best insurance coverage, sold publications at every event, helped with every mailing, made beautiful flower arrangements, and was a faithful volunteer on the Archives Committee. She became fond of my Havanese dog, and would come early for Archives Committee meetings at my house for what she referred to as "Travie breaks". Carol was a warm, sensitive lady, a hard worker, and a great supporter of the Historical Society. We owe her a big debt of gratitude, and we have lost a dear friend. May she rest in peace.

— Alison Mitchell



Old Lyme Historical Society  
**ANTIQUES  
 APPRAISAL  
 FAIRE**

**Saturday, September 17, 2016**



From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall  
 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT

Photography and Poster Design: *James Meehan Art & Design*

**Mark Your Calendar  
 For 5th Annual  
 Antiques Appraisal Faire**

The Old Lyme Historical Society will host an Antiques Appraisal Fair on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 1-4pm at the Old Lyme Town Hall. Expert appraisers will be on hand to give verbal estimates on all manner of attic discoveries and family heirlooms such as books, paintings, glassware, decorative items, textiles, jewelry, coins, clocks and other ephemera.

Among the appraisers will be Jeff Cooley, owner of the Cooley Gallery, whose openings not only attract a crowd eager to appreciate American Impressionists, but also contemporary artists such as Judy Friday.

Appraisals are \$7 for the first item, \$14 for two items, or \$20 for three items. Proceeds from this event benefit the *Carol Noyes Winters Scholarship Fund*.



Old Lyme Midsummer Festival, 2015

*Upcoming Events*

Old Lyme Town Band Concert  
*Sponsored by  
 Old Lyme Historical Society  
 Sunday, July 17, 2016  
 4 p.m. on the Town Green*

Old Lyme Midsummer Festival  
*July 29 & 30, 2016*

Antiques Appraisal Faire  
*Saturday, September 17, 2016  
 From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall  
 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT*

2017 Now & Then  
 Community Calendar Event  
*Thursday, November 3, 2016  
 55 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT*