



River & Sound

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

Issue 23 🍁 December 2016



OLHSI Launches the 2017 *Now & Then* Community Calendar

The Old Lyme Historical Society marked the launch of the 2017 *Now & Then* Community Calendar with a festive reception at 55 Lyme Street on November 10th from 4-6pm. Visitors young and old stopped by to sample the cider and purchase calendars, books, prints and other gift items on their holiday checklists. Members of the Connecticut Handweavers' Guild Area 4 provided weaving demonstrations on the Clement Community Loom, and OLHSI board member Skip Beebe entertained the crowd with his folk guitar stylings. There was also a door prize raffle for a lovely gift basket filled with Old Lyme Historical Society publications and merchandise.

This year's *Now & Then* calendar features the following sponsors: South Lyme Union Chapel, The Chocolate Shell, Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Bee and Thistle Inn,

Lyme Art Association, Old Lyme Marina, Sound View Beach Association, Black Hall Outfitters, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, Florence Griswold Museum, Town of Old Lyme, and The Bowerbird.

Always an eagerly anticipated holiday gift, the 2017 *Now & Then* Community Calendar is available for sale at The Cooley Gallery, Florence Griswold Museum, Laysville Hardware, and other locations about town. Additionally, for your convenience, you may purchase the calendar outside the Post Office on Saturday, December 3 from 10am - 2pm; at the Historical Society (55 Lyme Street) during the "Homes for the Holidays" house tour on Saturday, December 10 from 11am - 3pm, or outside Shalett's Cleaners on Saturday, December 17 from 10am-2pm.

—Michaëlle Pearson



Photos: James Meehan



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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River & Sound

NEWSLETTER

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From the Co-Chairs

The past few months of accomplishments were interrupted by one sad event: the passing of Trustee emeritus Jim Noyes. The Society's Board of Trustees decided to rename the Chairmen's Award the *James Brewster Noyes Award*. This award honors a Society member who goes "above and beyond" in time and effort to support the Society. Jim Noyes was the first recipient of the Chairmen's Award.

The Society again sponsored the July Town Band concert on the South Green. Despite the high temperatures and fears of melting ice cream, the concert was a success. It is a pleasure to team up with the Florence Griswold Museum and the Old Lyme Historic District Commission for the benefit of the community. Two weeks later, we took part in the 30th Midsummer Festival during which members of the Connecticut Handweavers' Guild demonstrated their craft, the Old Lyme Fire Department graciously lent us their 1928 Maxim fire truck as a centerpiece and musician Jim Lampos entertained our visitors with his wonderful guitar music.

In September, we held our annual Antiques Appraisal Faire in the Old Lyme Town Hall. This event, spearheaded by Leslie Markowicz, attracted many people curious about the value of their antiques and collectibles. Our thanks to the appraisers and to the sponsors (a first this year), whose generous donations covered our expenses, allowing us to add over \$1,000 to the Carol Noyes Winters Scholarship fund. Two weeks later, we held our third fall plant sale, overseen by Jenn Hillhouse. The proceeds of this event were earmarked for the ongoing work on our building. Skip Beebe organized our third fundraiser dinner, held this year at On the Rocks restaurant at the Fox Hopyard Golf Club. All attending agreed that it was a fine affair and we hope to repeat it next year. We celebrated the launch of our 2017 *Now & Then* Community Calendar on November 10th with a festive reception at the Old Lyme Historical Society at 55 Lyme Street.

In our last newsletter, we reported that we had contracted with a group from Vermont to restore our iconic stage curtain. Unfortunately, a health issue in the family of one of the conservators has put this on hold for a while. Perhaps in our next newsletter we'll be able to report the completion of this project.

Looking ahead, on Saturday, December 10th we will be participating in the "Homes for the Holidays" Tour organized by our neighbors at the Old Lyme Children's Learning Center. We will also host a cookie decorating session for the OLCLC children on Tuesday, December 13th from 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

No newsletter would be complete without a report on the progress of our award-winning Tuesday Morning Work Crew. With the archives room essentially complete, they have shifted their attention to preparing a furnace room to house the new furnace/AC unit which will soon be installed by Wilcox Fuel.

The Handweavers' Guild practices their craft every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Do stop by 55 Lyme Street and watch them work on the Clement Community Loom.

We always appreciate donations of items of local historic interest as well as monetary donations to our on-going renovation project. Please stop in and visit whenever you see signs of life at 55 Lyme St. Thank you for your support.

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



Photos: Sheila Werthimer

OLHSI Antiques Appraisal Faire

Old Lyme's modest version of "Antiques Road Show" took place on a lovely September afternoon in the Community Room at Town Hall on Lyme Street. The Historical Society was fortunate to obtain the services of several well-respected expert appraisers: Jeff Cooley, owner of The Cooley Gallery in Old Lyme; Nancy Hoffman, a long-time antiques dealer, specializing in early country textiles, farm implements and primitive furniture; Joy Ruskin Hanes, co-owner of Hanes & Ruskin Antiques in Old Lyme; Edwin Nadeau, Jr., owner/operator of Nadeau's Auction Gallery, Inc. in Windsor; Curt Wendler, owner of Curt Wendler Rare Books in Old Saybrook, and Alicia Winalski, owner of Nyman Jewelers in Old Saybrook.

The Antiques Appraisal Faire was generously supported by the following sponsors: Acorn Financial Services, All-Pro Automotive, Headlines Unisex Salon, James Meehan Art & Design, Pasta Vita, M.J. DeRiso, Realtor – William Pitt/Sotheby's, Sennheiser, Shore & Country Real Estate, a retired OLHSI Board member, and Shoreline Web Services LLC, publishers of LymeLine.com & ValleyNewsNow.com. Thanks to Big Y, Andy's Deli and Dunkin Donuts for providing delicious refreshments; and also the Town of Old Lyme, LOLHS History Club Students, and guitarist Skip Beebe.

Thanks to Chairperson Leslie Markowicz, and a great team of volunteers the event was a success and we are happy to report that proceeds of over \$1,100 have been deposited into the *Carol Noyes Winters Scholarship Fund*.



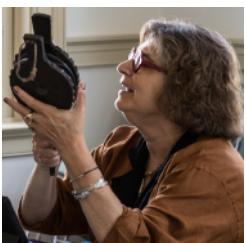
Curt Wendler



Alicia Winalski



Edwin Nadeau, Jr.



Joy Ruskin Hanes



Nancy Hoffman



Jeff Cooley

James Brewster Noyes (1922-2016)



We note with sadness that our distinguished Trustee Emeritus, James B. Noyes, died on Aug. 25, 2016. He was an important anchor for the the launch of The Old Lyme Historical Society when it was started in 2005, and he will be sorely missed. The next issue of River & Sound newsletter will include a profile of Mr. Noyes' life and contributions to his hometown of Old Lyme.

Mary Janvrin (1925-2016)

The Historical Society was sorry to learn of the death of Mary Janvrin. She was a supporter of the Historical Society and donated two marvelous dollhouses belonging to Mary and her sister, Natalie Janvrin Wiggins. They are on permanent display at 55 Lyme Street where the public can enjoy viewing the meticulously placed furnishings, some hand done. Mary's longtime friend, Jean O'Reilly has written a short biography about Mary Janvrin. We are pleased to publish it here with our own appreciation of Mary's generosity.

Mary Janvrin was born in New York City on June 24, 1925. Her father Edmund R.P. Janvrin was a physician and a well-known amateur naturalist and ornithologist. Her mother Elizabeth Train Janvrin was an artist, and before her marriage, a book illustrator. Mary attended the Nightingale-Bamford School and the Barmore Secretarial School in New York City. Following her graduation, Mary was employed by Mrs. August Belmont and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. Mary and her family spent many summers in Old Lyme and she settled there permanently in the 1970's along with her sister Natalie and Natalie's husband, Grafton Wiggins.

Mary was a talented painter, sketcher and bird carver and she was particularly adept at working in miniature. She loved horses and rode as a child. She continued that love through her drawings and paintings of horses. Mary and Natalie lovingly preserved their childhood possessions, including Steiff animals, dolls, Tynietoy dollhouses, children's china, greeting cards and correspondence received from friends and relatives. They collected miniatures and created several fine miniature rooms and houses. They also preserved many family pieces passed down through the generations, including diaries, drawings, photographs and objects, such as the shoes worn by their great-grandmother Elizabeth Conant Hill when she danced with the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) during his visit to the United States. After Natalie's death in 2010, Mary became the curator of their collections and earmarked a number of items to be donated to the Old Lyme Historical Society. Mary died in Chester on September 29, 2016.

– Jay and Jean Landry O'Reilly Wickford, RI

2016-2017 Board of Trustees



Photo: James Meehan

Shown from left to right: Julia Griswold, Adela Wilmerding, Sandra Jocus, Jennifer Hillhouse, Mark Lander, Leslie Markowicz, Edith Twining, Ned Farman, Judith Read, Timothy Griswold, Alison Mitchell, Skip Beebe, Ann Marie Jewett, Ted Freeman, Ellis Jewett, Kevin Cole, Stephen Moore, Roger Breunig and Robert DiNapoli. Not shown are Dolores Green, Martha Hanson, Burr McDermott, Michaëlle Pearson and Sheila Wertheimer.

The Mitchell Archives Room



Photo: Edith Twining

The Archives Committee Co-chairs, Sandy Downing and Alison Mitchell, are shown welcoming our new and much appreciated Monday Archive volunteers, Jeff Sturges and Lilo Hess. An orientation session was held on the scope of our collection, and how to handle various artifacts using cloth gloves, and being careful to remove paper clips, staples, pins and the like. The Archive team also includes Aoife Hufford, a sophomore at Old Lyme High School, on Monday afternoons. On Thursdays, Mary Jo Nosal has joined us to contribute her time to the enormous task of cataloging our collection. Significant progress is being made, and we look forward to the day when the Archives will be open to the public. In the meantime, we are eagerly accepting donations. The Society was pleased to receive a donation recently from David and Suzanne Hoffman of a tole tray and Hitchcock style chair both beautifully hand stenciled by Bea Hoffman, David's grandmother, and wife of American impressionist, Harry Hoffman. The Hoffmans maintained a house on Sill Lane for many years.

The Archives Committee is looking for the following Town of Old Lyme Annual Reports to complete our collection which starts in 1927. We would be grateful if a look in your attic or basement uncovers any of these: 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1949, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1962. Give us a call at 860 434 0684. We will be happy to pick up.

Support the Old Lyme Historical Society by becoming a member today. 2017 Membership

Date _____

New member Renewing member

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Student \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$35

Patron \$100 Benefactor \$250

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Additional donation

Please make your check payable to Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Dues are fully tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!

Are you interested in volunteering with the OLHSI?

If so, what areas are of interest to you?

The OLHSI is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Connecticut. It is a registered charity with the state Department of Consumer Protection and is recognized by the IRS for 501(c)3 status.

Benefits of OLHSI membership

- A subscription to the *River & Sound* newsletter
- Your own copy of Lyme Street walking tour
 - Advance notice of and discounted rates for selected events
 - A 10% discount on our books
- Training in historical research techniques, and opportunities to be involved with our oral history project
- The realization that your tax deductible contribution is supporting a vital cultural resource



Please mail your membership form & payment to
Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 352, Old Lyme, CT 06371



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James Brewster Noyes Award

This award honors a Society member who goes "above and beyond" in time and effort to support the Society.

2008 - Bob Dunn

2009 - James B. Noyes

2010 - Tom Schellens

2011 - Mark Lander

2012 - Entire Board of Trustees for their combined contribution to the organization

2013 - Michaëlle Pearson

2014 - Catherine Christiano

2015 - Facilities Committee: Ellis Jewett, Kevin Cole, Ted Freeman, Skip Beebe and Stephen Jocus

2016 - Bob DiNapoli



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