



Westwood Historical Society

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Spring 2018 Newsletter

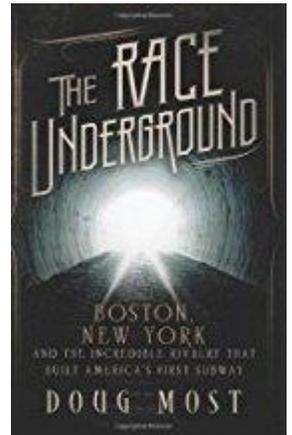
This is the time of year when we ask you to renew your Westwood Historical Society membership. Basic annual membership (May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019) is \$25. Any contributions above this amount will go toward the upkeep of the Fisher School and our school and community programs. Simply complete and mail the enclosed card to continue your support. We appreciate it!

The rest of this newsletter highlights our upcoming programs. We sincerely thank you for your participation in the Westwood Historical Society!

April Program: Doug Most, Author of “The Race Underground: Boston, New York and the Incredible Rivalry” Tuesday, April 24th, 7:30 at the Fisher School

Doug Most will share the amazing story of the building of Boston’s MBTA system. At the time, Boston’s streets were congested with horse carts, people and other modes of transportation. Building underground tunnels for “electric” cars was a huge undertaking. Two brothers from one of the nation’s great families – Henry Melville Whitney of Boston and Williams Collins Whitney of New York – each pursued the dream of digging America’s first subway and the great race was on.

Doug was born in Boston, grew up in New York and spent 10 years as a journalist. He taught Magazine Writing and Editing at Boston University and is currently the deputy managing editor at the Boston Globe.



May Program: Third Graders Experience an “1800s School Day”

Charlie Donahue will again oversee our School Program this May. As in the past, the Fisher School is transformed into a historic classroom with antique school desks and chairs plus a dunce cap and stool. We welcome every Westwood third grade class to an 1800s School Day. Students dress in period clothing and bring an old-fashioned lunch (no plastic wrap allowed!). During the day, they step back in time to read from McGuffey’s Third Reader, use individual slates to complete problems from Warren Colburn’s 1847 arithmetic book, write with quill pens and ink, participate in a spelling bee and play old-fashioned games.

Looking for Quarter Century Award Nominations

The Westwood Historical Society is now accepting nominees for its annual Quarter Century Award. The award is presented each year to a person or couple who have made significant contributions to the Westwood community for more than 25 years. The contribution can be in any field, such as education, religion, arts, civic or social service.

To make a nomination, please send a letter to the Historical Society describing your nominee(s) and their contributions to Westwood (using the P.O. Box address above). Nominations must be received by **May 31, 2018**.

Past Recipients of the Quarter Century Award. Previous recipients of the honorary tribute are (beginning in 1990): Yetta and Alexander Fisher, Barbara and Allan Beale, Donald MacLellan, Allen Baker, Richard Youlden, Ellie and Roy London, Lillian Perkins, Robert Wood, Gordon Youlden, Tom Dunn, Joseph Weider, Emlen and Jim Wheeler, Duncan and Ellen McFarland, Shirley Howard, Joe and Joy Clancy, Irene and Ralph Buonopane, Barbara Friedman, Mike Beaumont, Joan Swann, Lura Provost, Russ and Marilyn Downes, Ann and Jerry Cronin, Joan Murphy, Barbara and Sam Hayes, and Tony Antonellis.

Curator's Corner

Lura Provost

Recently, some wonderful donations have been given to the Society. All of them will be on display at our April 24th program (see above):

- Judith Liberman donated a **complete collection of her many books**. She is a renowned author of books for children and also writes on inspirational and historical subjects. The Society was pleased to acquire a set of all of her publications, especially as she is a Westwood resident.
- Corine Spinale donated her copy of the **1970s Westwood Young Woman's Club cookbook, along with the Club's newsletter: Highlighter**. They give a picture of Westwood at that time.
- Roger Christian donated some delightful **photos of the 1845 Fisher School move**: from Milk Street, down Clapboardtree Street, and to its new home on High Street. The photos help us recall the tremendous task to move a building and all the coordination required.
- Jack Patterson donated a **framed picture chart of Westwood by Clara Holland** that always hung in his insurance office in Islington.
- Maureen Sleight donated an **ornate Victorian silver tea service**.
- Lura Provost donated a **child's tall wooden ring toss, complete with the fabric rings**.
- A **collection of Dorchester Pottery** was discovered in Waldo Hodgdon's barn and donated to the Society by Fox Hill Village.

Thank you for these treasures and for keeping the Historical Society in mind! We are pleased to add to the collection and build a more comprehensive picture of Westwood life in the past. They are also helpful as the Society answers general inquiries about Westwood's history and specific questions about certain historic houses and items.

A Chance to Volunteer. Dan Evans has been working on getting our donated items logged into the computer and properly accessed. If you would like to help with this process, please contact Lura Provost at luraprovost@gmail.com. We would like to set up a regular day for some of you to come in to assist with the collection and archives. There are plenty of jobs to go around from organizing our files on historic houses to locating missing items that are logged in the computer but not in their designated places.

Thanks and Remembrances

Special thanks go to Joy and Ron Sudduth for managing our emails and mailings throughout the year and to the Westwood Garden Club for changing our wreath each season.

We also want to remember several dedicated members who passed away recently: Claire Bogrette, Barbara Hayes, Bill Jacobs and Pat Johnson. We will miss them dearly.

Our Board Members

Current Board members include: Marilyn Freedman and Lura Provost (Co-Presidents), Annie Jessup (Vice-President), Mary Ellen Washienko (Secretary), Ron Sudduth (Treasurer), Kevin Bean and June Cassidy (new to the Board and now editor of the newsletter and publicity person).