



## *Westwood Historical Society*

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Co-Presidents

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## Spring 2019 Newsletter

*This is the time of year when we ask you to renew your Westwood Historical Society membership. Annual membership (May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020) is \$25/single and \$50/family. Membership dues provide for the regular maintenance of the 1845 Fisher School and our archives. Contributions above dues support our programs, our 1800s School Day and other more significant projects.*

**Speaking of Projects...** We recently discovered that many shingles have blown off the Fisher School. While checking the damage, we learned that it will need to be re-roofed soon. Please consider an extra donation towards this project. (Just note on the card that it is for the roof. We appreciate it!)

### Open Mic Nights

A vibrant Westwood High School group has used the Fisher School for several Open Mic nights during the year. They have another scheduled for April! Each time, 50+ high schoolers have filled the venue and the audience has so appreciated hearing and seeing their up-and-coming fellow musicians, singers and performers. This is another way that the Historical Society has been of service to the youth of Westwood.

### Third Graders Experience an "1800s School Day"

Charles 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.

Every Westwood third-grade class has the opportunity to participate in 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.



### A Second "1800s School Day" for Adults

This year, the Westwood Women's Club will host its first 1800s School Day, too! A special evening will be hosted by Charles Donahue for this group so that they can learn about the school program just as Westwood third graders do.

## Looking for Quarter Century Award Nominations

The Westwood Historical Society is now accepting nominees for its 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). Please send your nominations to us by May 31, 2019, if possible.

**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, Tony Antonellis and Nancy and Charles Donahue.

### Looking Ahead

We are delighted to announce that Jerry Cronin will be presenting a special program in November: **Westwood: Fifty Years of Change.**

And, on December 6 and 7, the **“Westwood Artisans Marketplace”** will again “set up shop” in the Fisher School. We encourage you to stop by to see these local artists and purchase their lovely wares.

## A Recap of Our Programs This Past Year...

**Rufus Porter and his Wall Murals.** In November, Sloane Awtrey, Research Intern for Decorative Arts, Art of the Americas at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts presented a wonderful program on Rufus Porter and his wall murals – including the ones in Westwood’s own houses.

**In December,** the Westwood Historical Society’s Fisher School hosted the “Westwood Artisans Marketplace” holiday showcase. We also had our annual Holiday Party/Sing-Along and used the occasion to present this year’s Quarter Century Award to Nancy and Charles Donahue.

**The New England Hurricane of 1938.** In January, Sarah Sycz Jaworski, from Historic New England, shared wonderful photos and a wealth of information about the massive hurricane that hit New England on September 21, 1938.

**Our Own “Antiques Roadshow.”** In February, we hosted a mini “Antiques Roadshow” with Michael B. Grogan, President/Chief Auctioneer for Grogan & Company. Michael regaled us with stories and provided verbal appraisals for the paintings, jewelry and silver that people brought to the program.

**A History of the Irish in Boston.** In March, Christopher Daley talked about the waves of Irish immigrants who came to Boston – and how they influenced and impacted our history from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century through the 1950s (when many Irish rose up the ranks and gained power within the Boston political scene).

## Thanks and Remembrances

Special thanks go to the Westwood Garden Club for changing our wreath each season. We also want to remember two dedicated members who passed away recently: Isabel Goode and Graham Long.

## Interest in Our Board and/or Ideas for Programs?

Current Board members include: Marilyn Freedman and Lura Provost (Co-Presidents), Ron Sudduth (Treasurer), Mary Ellen Washienko and June Cassidy. We are always looking for new/additional Board Members – as well as ideas for programs. If you are interested in joining us or know of programs and/or speakers you would recommend, please send an e-mail to Lura Provost (luraprovo@gmail.com).