



Westwood Historical Society

Marilyn Freedman and Lura Provost,
Co-Presidents

Fisher School, 830 High Street
PO Box 2575, Westwood, MA 02090
Telephone: 617-462-6401 (call/text)

Website: www.westwoodhistoricalsociety.com

E-mail: westwoodhistorical@comcast.net

Editor: June Cassidy

Fall 2019 Newsletter

Happy Anniversary to the Fisher School!

It's been 20 years since the Historical Society opened its new home in the 1845 Fisher School building. This fall, the Board is seeking extra donations especially to fund a new roof, paint the exterior and refurbish our outdoor sign. In 1995, the Fisher School was moved – with restoration completed in 1999. Thus, after 20 years, the building needs a new roof and some paint. We will be writing grants to cover part of the costs, but we need your help to make this happen. This will be our only mailing, so please respond as generously as you can to maintain our historic schoolhouse. Our school program each spring and lectures in the fall and winter benefit many town residents. In addition, a group of High School students hosted several open mic nights, the Westwood Women's Club enjoyed an old-fashioned day at the Fisher School, and the Westwood Artists were able to use our classroom for their marketplace.

Each spring, we ask you to update your Westwood Historical Society membership. In the fall, we ask for additional contributions to support our programs, our 1800s School Day for all Westwood third graders, the maintenance of our collection of Westwood items and the upkeep of the Fisher School. This year, we anticipate some fairly significant expenses for the building (a new roof and exterior painting as noted above), so we sincerely appreciate your donation! A donation card is included with this newsletter.

Our 2019-20 Programs

The Westwood Historical Society is pleased to host several great programs this year, including three by long-time Westwood residents: John Pritchard, Jerry Cronin and Skip Wells! Dates and speakers are noted below, but also watch our website, Facebook page and the local papers for more information.

All programs are held at the Fisher School, 830 High Street, Westwood.

October Program: Boston's Chocolate Industry and Quarter Century Award Presentation Tuesday, October 8, 7:30 pm

John Pritchard will be sharing his extensive knowledge about the chocolate industry in Boston with us. We're thrilled that John is also this year's Quarter Century Award recipient. Since he was a teenager, John has been active in many Westwood organizations. We encourage you to join us for John's presentation and to learn about – and celebrate – his lifelong contributions to Westwood.

November Program: Westwood: The Last 50 Years Tuesday, November 5, 7:30 pm

Jerry Cronin will use photographs to talk about the changes in Westwood's government, housing, schools, churches, and businesses since the 1970s. Jerry was previously on the staff at Westwood High School and a former President of the Historical Society. This will be an interactive session, so bring your own memories to share!

Westwood Artisans Marketplace

Friday and Saturday, December 6 (3:30 to 7 pm) and 7 (10 am to 3 pm)

The Westwood Historical Society is delighted that the Westwood Artisans Marketplace will again be at the Fisher School for their holiday showcase. We encourage you to stop by to see these local artists and purchase their lovely wares. (Also see the Town's brochure and map advertising all the events taking place during Westwood's Holiday Stroll.)

Holiday Party and Sing-Along

Sunday, December 8, 2 pm

All are welcome to join us for refreshments and our annual sing-along! Please bring your family, friends and children. Sunny O'Malley will again be playing piano for us – and taking song requests.

February 2020 Program: TBD

Tuesday, February 11, 7:30 pm

March 2020 Program: Repeating Historical Trends in the Stock Market

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm

Skip Wells, a Wall Street analyst and Hedge Fund manager, will share his extensive knowledge about trends in the Stock Market.

April 2020 Program: Photo Detective

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 pm

Maureen Taylor is an international speaker on how photos and photography intersect and inform genealogy and history.

Note that **AtlasObscura** recently featured an article on Town Pounds and included the Westwood Town Pound! Take a look at: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/new-england-colonial-town-pounds>.

Curator's Corner: Lura Provost

We always appreciate your donations – as they help us build our collection and knowledge of Westwood life. Recently, Barbara Thurston donated a wonderful collection of Westwood High School yearbooks from the early 1950s, as well as class and reunion photos. Barbara's father was Edmund Thurston: the first superintendent of Westwood schools. The Middle School was named in his honor.

Recently, two volunteers, Dan Evans and Sarah Synk, have been documenting our extensive collection via Past Perfect. This will make accessing our collection much easier. Hats off to them!

In Remembrance...

We are sad to note that **Joan Swann** passed away in August. She was a past President of the Historical Society and helped lead the move of the Fisher School to its present location. She also helped set up our collection in the new location and initiated the School Program at the Fisher School.

Larry Coffin also passed away in August. Larry was a member of the Historical Society for many years volunteering, along with his wife, Nicole, at our events and fund raisers. We will miss him.

Many Thanks...

We extend a special thanks to Charlie Donahue who continues to oversee the third grade School Program in the spring. Thanks also go to Kate Langenberg for sharing her talented skills in calligraphy to create our Quarter Century Award certificate. And we appreciate the Westwood Garden Club who changes our wreath each season for all to enjoy.

Our Board Members. Current Board members include: Marilyn Freedman and Lura Provost (Co-Presidents), Mary Ellen Washienko (Secretary), Ron Sudduth (Treasurer), and June Cassidy (Newspaper Publicity).



Fisher School in the Winter