



Westwood Historical Society

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Spring 2020 Newsletter

This is the time of year when we ask you to renew your Westwood Historical Society membership. Annual membership (May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021) is \$25/single and \$50/family and a card is enclosed.

As you know, our programs are free and open to the public. Membership dues help us pay for a portion of our regular costs (e.g., heat, electricity and maintenance) and insurance on the 1845 Fisher School. Membership dues haven't changed in years, despite these costs going up. Any additional contributions we receive (from this mailing and our fall special mailing) go to larger maintenance projects (e.g., the new roof last year and the painting of the ramp and the exterior of the schoolhouse this year).

Open Mic Nights

A vibrant Westwood High School group has again used the Fisher School this year for several Open Mic nights. Each time, 50+ high schoolers have filled the venue and the audience enjoyed hearing and seeing their up-and-coming fellow musicians, singers and performers.



Our April Program: Maureen Taylor, Photo Detective

On Tuesday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m., Maureen Taylor will share her expertise at uncovering genealogical history from old photos. She is an internationally recognized expert on historic photography identification, photo preservation and family research.

She is also the author of several books, scholarly articles and online columns, has appeared on *The View* and *The Today Show*, and has been featured in numerous publications including *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, and *Better Homes and Gardens*.

This program will be held at the Fisher School (830 High Street, Westwood, MA). The program is open to the public, handicap-accessible and free of charge. Parking is available in front of the Thurston Middle School and refreshments will be served.

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, 2020, if possible.



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.

Question: Would You Like to Come to an “1800s School Program”?

We’d like to offer a one-hour program on the 1800s School Program to **anyone** who wants to attend. We’d schedule it during May (while everything is set up), but in the evening. Charlie Donahue has graciously offered to host this program: provide us all with information about the lessons and books they use, the games they play and share more about the history and excitement of the day.

If you would be interested in such a program, please send us an e-mail at:

westwoodhistorical@comcast.net. Or give us a call: 781-329-6697 (June Cassidy).

A Recap of Our Programs This Past Year...

The History of Chocolate. In October, John Pritchard talked about the History of Chocolate, based on his work with the Confectionary Division of NABISCO. We were thrilled that John was also the Quarter Century Award recipient for 2019 for his lifelong contributions to Westwood!

Westwood: The Last 50 Years. In November, another Westwood resident, Jerry Cronin, presented an overview of Westwood’s government, housing, schools, churches, and businesses. Several audience members added to the program by sharing their own memories of Westwood places and people.

In December, the Westwood Historical Society’s Fisher School again hosted the “Westwood Artisans Marketplace” holiday showcase. We also had our annual Holiday Party/Sing-Along.

Historical Trends in the Stock Market – and What the Future Might Hold. Skip Wells is also a long-time Westwood resident plus a Wall Street analyst, and Hedge Fund manager. In March, he did a program focusing on the stock market, its history and what the future might bring.

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: Lois Crocker and Louisa Fairbanks.

Interest in Our Board and/or Ideas for Programs?

Current Board members include: Marilyn Freedman and Lura Provost (Co-Presidents), Ron Sudduth (Treasurer), and June Cassidy. We are always looking for new/additional Board Members – as well as suggestions 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 (luraprovost@gmail.com) or call her at: 617-462-6401.