



## *Westwood Historical Society*

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Co-Presidents

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## Fall 2020 Newsletter

### Much Needed Updates to the Fisher School

As noted in our Fall 2019 newsletter, this past year was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the 1845 Fisher School for the Historical Society – after its move to the current site. With Covid-19, our spring programs were cancelled, including the much loved Third Grader School program.



However, we used the time to refurbish this wonderful historical building with a new roof, a renovated ramp, and a completely repainted exterior. We also worked hard to restore the daylily beds and “manage” the wooded area behind the building. Your extra contributions this spring helped fund this work and a dedicated Board member put in many hours herself.

That being said, we also realize there is more to come this fall

(stone wall repair and some “carpenter bee” amelioration).



### Our Fall Programs

We will be hosting two programs this fall – both on Zoom through a wonderful collaboration with the Westwood Public Library. Please visit the library website at <https://www.westwoodlibrary.org/calendar> (or call 781-320-1045) and register for each program individually. Once you find the program(s) you want, use the “Click to Register” button to sign up. You will receive an e-mail the day before the event with the Zoom information you need to join us.



#### **October 13, at 7:30 p.m. The Untold Cuban Missile Crisis**

Michael Tougias has conducted extensive research on disasters and historic moments in our history. During this program, Michael will share his knowledge of the strategic wisdom of John F. Kennedy and the U-2 aerial spy program. This edge-of-your-seat slide program will reveal four incidents during the crisis that “had us a whisker away from nuclear war.”

#### **November 10, at 7:30 p.m. Tracing Your Family History**

Joy Marzolf has always had a passion for genealogy. Join Joy on a virtual adventure through the past, following what she thought was her mother’s early family history through to Nova Scotia and England. In pursuing one family line, Joy discovered more about her ancestors and much about herself. Joy will also talk about her methodology and the resources she used in her search.

As always, if you can suggest potential presenters (including yourself), do let us know! Just send us an e-mail ([westwoodhistorical@comcast.net](mailto:westwoodhistorical@comcast.net)).



## Quarter Century Award

We will be posting this year's recipient on our website ([www.westwoodhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.westwoodhistoricalsociety.com)) and announcing it in the local newspapers. Watch for more information this fall!

## Membership and Special Contributions

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. (A donation card is included with this newsletter and we sincerely appreciate any additional contribution you can make at this time – for the past/upcoming work and future programs.)

## Curator's Corner: Lura Provost

Since the last Historical Society newsletter, some wonderful items have been given to the Society. We so appreciate your thinking of the Society and donating items that build our collection and knowledge of Westwood life.

**Genie Thorndike**, the former owner of the fabulous historic property at 229 High Street, met with us to donate photographs of the interior and exterior of the house plus letters from the Forbes family who were previous owners. The photos show the various additions to the house, the beautiful fireplaces, and the interior features as well as serving to document the extraordinary features of this historic house.

**Neil Simoni** donated a soda fountain stool from Lily's Drugstore that used to be on High Street at the current Comella's location. Certainly, it's a replica of days gone by! John Pritchard remembers that his friend and classmate was one of the store's first "Soda Jerks." This commercial building was really the beginning of Westwood's business boom consisting of the two store blocks and the hardware store across the street.

Former Westwood resident, **Carole Wallace**, donated framed prints of some of Judi Ciardi's paintings of Westwood scenes during the seventies and eighties. Judi did such a wonderful job of capturing the flavor of Westwood.

Again, thank you for your donations. When the Society can have meetings again, we will display all of these new items for everyone to enjoy.

## In Remembrance...

One of our long-time members, **Arthur W. Gearty**, passed away on September 14. Arthur was a dedicated educator in the Westwood public schools for many years. Most importantly for us, he was a volunteer teacher in our Third Grade 1868 History Day program at the Fisher School for at least 15 years.

In addition, **Lee MacQuarrie** passed away on April 28. He and his wife, Carol, have been long-term Historical Society members and have volunteered for many tasks. As one example, Lee spent many hours adding our collection information to the computer. He will be missed.



**Our Board Members.** Current Board members include: Marilyn Freedman and Lura Provost (Co-Presidents), Ron Sudduth (Treasurer), June Cassidy (Publicity/Website) and Paula Meridan.