



## *Westwood Historical Society*

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## Fall 2021 Newsletter

*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 contribution you can make. Also, please send us an e-mail or note if we have listed your name/address incorrectly. We updated our list over the summer, but do expect some additional corrections.)*

*A special thank you goes out to those families who made contributions this year of \$500 and \$1,000. In addition, we received a \$100 contribution from St. John’s Episcopal Church (who held their plant sale at the Fisher School) and a \$400 contribution from the Foundation for Westwood Education (to support the third grade “1800s School Day” done virtually this past spring).*

### Our Fall Programs

We will be hosting two programs this fall – again on Zoom – through a wonderful collaboration with the Westwood Public Library. (See the back of this page for registration information.)



#### **October 12, at 7:30 p.m. (The Fairbanks House: An “Above and Beyond” Tour, Stuart Christie)**

Stuart Christie is a long-term Dedham, Massachusetts resident and an avid amateur historian. For the past eight years, Stuart has served as a volunteer docent at the Fairbanks House in Dedham, built in 1637. He is also currently acting as the Director of Visitor Services for the Fairbanks House. This past year, Stuart created and narrated a virtual tour of the house – and will recreate this adventure for us, going above and beyond the typical in-person tour!

#### **November 16, at 7:30 p.m. (Land Subsidence: What it is and what it means to our historical landscape, Estelle Chaussard)**

Dr. Estelle Chaussard is currently a senior research scientist and will talk about “land subsidence” (the gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth’s surface). She will use Boston as an example of how nearly all buildings constructed on filled land in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are supported on wood pilings driven 15 to 20 feet below the surface. When these piles are exposed to the air, they rot – and the buildings above settle unevenly in the process. Estelle will then talk about what it means for our historic buildings.



**To Register for Our Fall Programs.** Please visit the library website to register for each program individually (<https://westwoodlibrary.libcal.com/calendar>).

Once you find the program(s) you want, click on “Begin Registration” to sign up. You will receive an e-mail the day before the event with the Zoom information you need to join us. (If you’d rather register by phone, just call 781-320-1045.)

*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)).*

**Save the Date for our Holiday Party: December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m.!**

We are hoping to reinstate our annual holiday party this year. Watch for more information on our website and Facebook page.

**A Guest Appearance on Chronicle**

On September 3rd, our own Lura Provost was featured on Channel 25’s Chronicle program. Lura talked about many historic homes in Westwood and the “1800s School Day” program held every spring at the Fisher School (this year, via Zoom).

**Curator’s Corner: Lura Provost**

We received several donations to add to our collection and knowledge of Westwood: a 1939 illustrated map of Westwood and neighboring townships, a Westwood bicycle license plate, and the 250th Anniversary edition of Tales from First Parish Kitchens (a delightful treasury of recipes). All will be on exhibit when Covid is under control.

**Special Thanks.** Over the past several months, Conrad Brown, now a senior in Wellesley, has learned our Past Perfect archiving system. He has volunteered his time, diligently updating information and recording donations received. We so appreciate his work!

**In Remembrance...**

We’d like to remember the following people who passed away this year:

- Arsen Charles, who was still enjoying our programs at age 100,
- Anne Christian, a long-time supporter of the Westwood Historical Society,
- Rose DiMattia, who donated plants every year for our plant sale and also attended our programs regularly,
- Chuck Hubbell, who (with his wife) worked to plant our daylily bed beside the Fisher School, selecting particular varieties so that they would bloom throughout the season, and
- Raymundo Rustrian, a regular attender at our programs.

**Our Board Members.** Current Board members are: Marilyn Freedman and Lura Provost (Co-Presidents), David MacKay (Treasurer), June Cassidy, Ann Cronin, Bob Folsom and Paula Meridan.