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Our volunteers are vital. Our membership is indispensable.

Our community support is priceless.

Without You... We'd be History.

With You, We Thrive and Keep History Alive!

CONGRATULATIONS to *Volunteer TEAM of the Year*

The Volunteer of the Year for 2019 is a little different this year. It is being presented to the great team of approximately 25 women that have made it possible to run The Old Store Museum and Gift Shop for another year, now 21 years in total.

The goal of The Old Store is to provide a venue for local and out-of-town shoppers, to increase awareness of SHS, to support building maintenance and capital improvements, and to channel funds to SHS endowment. While meeting these objectives, our volunteers also act as a visitor bureau to Sherman, providing guidance to our customers of other places they might enjoy.

It takes a great team to make the store an enjoyable place to work and visit and we thank each and every one for their dedicated hours ensuring that The Old Store is open as scheduled and is always a happy place as customers like to tell us. The dedication of each and every volunteer, doing their part to make the store as successful as it has become through the years, is remarkable. Congratulations to each and every one of you!



We thank you all for your continued support during this trying year. We look forward to making history next year with events that work with the new norm.

Until then....

EVENTS CALENDAR

Annual Members' Meeting

September 18: 2pm via Zoom.

Please see membership letter for registration information. All members welcome.

Socially Safe 3rd Annual Tree & Menorah Lighting

Sunday, December 6: 4:30

at the Historical Society Barn with hot chocolate!

EDUCATION OUTDOORS

I have spent most of the last 30 years teaching Outdoor Education. As sometimes happens what started out as a volunteer opportunity became a career. Thanks to an open-minded principal there was a "nature program" run by volunteers at our children's elementary school. The standard was set as high as any other subject. We taught second through fifth graders both in the classroom and outdoors. Later I became the nature counselor at our town camp and ran programs at an Outdoor Education Center. I worked for the Conservation Division of Westchester County Parks and finally retired as manager of Muscote Farm in Somers, NY.

Working with children outdoors for so long it became clear that some children, especially the more active ones, really thrive in an

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NORTHROP HOUSE MUSEUM • THE OLD STORE MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP • BARN • ROGER SHERMAN COBBLER SHOP

Sherman Historical Society, 10 Route 37 Center, Sherman, CT 06874



www.ShermanHistoricalSociety.org • email: Office @ShermanHistoricalSociety.org • Office: 860-354-3083

outdoor setting. They are more engaged, better listeners, and problem solvers to say nothing of the benefits of fresh air. Perhaps it is simply the uniqueness of place or a break from the screen or the physical shifting as they go from one topic to the next, but the impact on skills and learning was always positive.

Outdoor Education is not Education Outdoors, but can be both. Some subjects lend themselves well to an outdoor setting, others may not. Restaurants are currently forced to create outside spaces for dining, and with no power for days this summer most of us learned what we could do on the grill, how hard it is to haul water from the stream and the necessity of a clothesline. Coping requires creativity.

In the early 1900s a tuberculosis epidemic ravaged the US. According to the Rhode Island Medical Journal two physicians from Providence, Drs. Mary A. Packard and Ellen A. Stone proposed an experimental open-air school in an effort to mitigate transmission among children. A Friends' Meeting House was provided with windows on three sides. The heat stove offered little help as the temperature inside never got higher than 10 degrees above the temperature outside. During the winter children sat in "Eskimo Bags" with heated soap stones at their feet. In spite of a grueling New England winter that year the experiment was a success. No children got sick, not even a cold. Two years later there were 65 open-air schools throughout the country utilizing everything from roof tops to ferries to pavilions.

Fortunately, with improved sanitation and public health standards the incidence of tuberculosis waned. At the same time the discovery of effective antibiotics increased. By the mid-1940s TB was no longer a major health threat and the open-air schools no longer a necessity. Fifty years after the first school opened the last one closed in Providence, RI in 1957.

– Sue Moga

SHAKERING THINGS UP!

The SHS held a workshop, DATE, on the art of caning chairs in the Shaker style. It was led by.....



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While the word "interesting" certainly describes the time we are living in, it doesn't quite cut it. "Challenging," "demanding," that's better. We are explorers, discovering new terrain. We are survivors, bush whacking through the jungle before us. Once we learn the lay of the land, we can cut our own path. We may 'all be in this together' but each person, family and organization must figure out the right path on their own. As a historical society we are tasked with preserving and interpreting for future generations. We would like to ask for your help to accomplish that in real time. Would you think about how things changed for you because of the virus? Is there a recipe that became you go-to or did you create something new? Are there any objects that would be significant to this moment in time? What do you want your grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know? A diary, an essay, a clipping or object that you would like to donate to the Sherman Historical Society would be greatly appreciated. Email office@shermanhistoricalsociety.org if you have any questions.

SHS accomplished many events before things came to a halt. The Annual Open House and our Second Tree and Menorah Lighting were great successes. Fall and Winter half-day school programs were full. We made cider, fell in love with fall, tapped trees and made maple syrup cookies. A quilt display was installed in the Northrop House with a Tea scheduled for Seniors to bring their quilts for a Show and Tell on March 12. That was the day things shut down. The quilts optimistically hung until July. Schools closed, 'distance learning' became a new familiar phrase. SHS talked about online programs, but screen time was already in high demand. The 2020 Barn Sale had to be cancelled much to the dismay of everyone. Please plan to donate to Barn Sale 2021. Drop off information will be on our website.

One thing that did not slow down however is work on the Barn Restoration. With the leveling and new roof accomplished, Phase 3 began last fall with the delivery of the siding. A mild winter cooperated which allowed for staining the boards on most days. The Barn was a maze of saw horses and siding. Staining, drying, stacking went on for months. Then starting on the south side, the siding began to go up. There was a deadline to meet as the bats would be returning the end of March. As beneficial as bats are, they need to roost outside in the bat house, not in the Barn. With the siding accomplished in time the Barn is now bat free. This summer we have had some great

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high school volunteers. Dom LaRose and Philip Ostrosky cleaned up, moved stuff and organized a lumber rack in preparation for Phase 4 of the Barn Restoration. The lighting installation should begin by the end of the summer.

Looking forward, while there will be no inside Northrop Open House in December, we are planning to have the **Annual Tree and Menorah Lighting** on Sunday, December 6th at 4:30.

— Sue Moga



CURATOR'S CORNER

It was a busy season, apparently people, like me, were finding time to “clean out”!

Revealing the most “history of Sherman” was from the estate of Alice Schneckenburger, with items that much earlier had belonged to her Great Uncle, the Hon. Daniel Mallory who lived in the family home 150 years ago. The attic still held treasures.

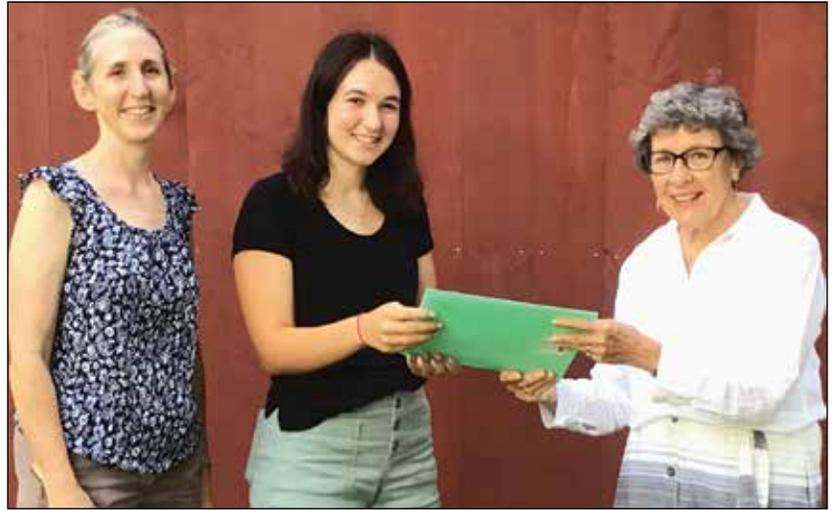
The family “high chair”, a dear little tall black chair with a “rush” seat that pulled up to the table, is now in the Old Kitchen at Northrop House.

Newspapers from 1902, printing all the speeches given at the 100th Anniversary Celebration for the town, held on the old church (Playhouse) Knoll. Several hundred people ate at long tables laden with homemade casseroles, rolls and desserts. I've typed out this and the proceedings of the storekeeper and Town Treasurer, William B. Hawley. He was accused of a shortage of money in the “School Fund” by one of the Atchison brothers in 1926. He committed suicide over the allegations in 1924. The town demanded a fair trial in Danbury, which found him “not guilty”, in 1939. All good reading if you are interested!

Jeb Embree, now of Lyme, CT sent old hand drawn maps of the extensive Barnes Hill property, then owned by Edna Barnes and her mother. It showed the divisions of property sold and among the papers were old handwritten deeds dated in the 1700's and news clippings of Sherman people and happenings, including the death of William Barnes - a nice collection of early history.

Through Liz Mard we acquired the small “ladies desk” from which Allie Giddings wrote “A History of Sherman” in 1975. We'll fill the drawers with more Sherman history!

Eileen White, now in Arizona sent 34 Gelston sermons beginning in 1800.. Included was the hand written call to minister at the North New Fairfield Church in 1774! Which became the Sherman Congregational Church in the upper seven miles of NF. It was sealed with a red wax stamp. Such good stuff!! – Gloria Thorne



Gloria Thorne Scholarship Winners: **NADIA OSTROSKY AND JAKE DILLER**

It was my honor to present Nadia Ostrosky and Jake Diller with this year's Gloria Thorne Scholarship on behalf of the Historical Society and the Old Store. Both students were deserving of this honor and wrote of the impact volunteering at SHS had on them.

Once campers of “Kids at the Cobbler Shop” Nadia and Jake eagerly took on the role of counselor to help provide their enriching experience to the next generation of “Cobblers”. They also volunteered for Barn Sales, Northrop House projects, and the erecting tents for a plethora of events.

Clearly the benefit was mutual quoting from Jake's application, “I've seen the benefit of volunteers and how integral they are to the notion of community, especially in a small town where it literally relies on the goodwill and volunteerism to make the community a richer one.” We are grateful for their time and energy and wish them so many good things as these Shepaug graduates head off to college. Nadia is attending the University of Scranton and Jake is at Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio.

– Gloria Thorne

