

HistWick Herald

!! Holiday Potluck Supper, December 4, St. Paul's Parish House !!

December 2011

Volume 9, Number 1

Annual Membership Renewal... by Mike Dacey

Annual Membership Renewal

Thank you for your continued support of Historic Wickford, Inc. It's been a busy and productive year.

Winter	<p>In February Keith Stokes, Executive Director of the R I Economic Development Corporation, was the guest speaker at our special planning meeting.</p> <p>We unveiled our new strategic plan, and provided an overview on the historic Hussey Bridge at our Annual Meeting in March.</p> <p>We participated in North Kingstown Spirit Day</p>
Spring & Summer	<p>In May we joined with other community groups and honored Nora Hall as HistWick's Volunteer of the Year.</p> <p>We ran a very successful membership drive, attracting more than 40 new memberships.</p> <p>HistWick sponsored two walking tours for members. Tim Cranston, who never fails to educate and entertain with stories about Wickford's past, beguiled attendees with stories on "Sea Captains Homes" and "Worshipping in Olde Wickford."</p> <p>We "adopted" the garden at the corner of Brown Street and Boston Neck Rd. where HistWick volunteers had fun weeding, raking and socializing on Saturday mornings.</p>
Fall	<p>We held a special Member Only Event at the Wickford Art Association Gallery at which we welcomed our new members.</p> <p>We met with the RI Department of Transportation to share our concerns and discuss their plans for the restoration of the Hussey Bridge. We were pleased to learn that the bridge will be restored to its original design. Old photos show that it was originally gray and then black, and it will be repainted one of these colors. They were amenable to adding a plaque to honor the designing engineer, and to participating in a communitywide celebration at the conclusion of the project.</p> <p>We began planning for the first Historic Home Treasure Hunt and Raffle to be held in conjunction with the Festival of Lights held on the first week-end of December.</p>

It is time to renew your membership for the coming year, and hope you'll take advantage of a very special offer. Members who contribute at the prestigious level of \$100 you will receive a free, autographed copy of Tim Cranston's newest book, "*Walking in Olde Wickford: the History of Elamsville and the Wickford Business District One Building at a Time*" which will be available early in the New Year.

Thank you, again, for your support of HistWick as we expand our efforts to preserve, protect and celebrate Wickford's history and unique contributions to the town of North Kingstown. You will be receiving information on the renewal in the mail shortly.

HistWick Sponsors Historic Home Treasure Hunt As Part of The Festival of Lights Celebration... by Nora Hall

HistWick's Historic Home Treasure Hunt is a new event during the town's annual Festival of Lights. On Saturday and Sunday, December 3 & 4, you're likely to see groups of people strolling through town while peering at historic plaques on the homes of West Main, Brown, Main and Gold Streets. The goal of the event is to identify houses that match a picture on the game card and note the date the house was built. Children too, will be peering at houses to match the toy pictured above the plaque with one of the pictures on their game cards.

Upon completing the hunt, participants will drop their card into the raffle box. On Sunday evening the winner of a gift basket including a \$200 town wide gift certificate, a cuddly Teddy Bear and other gift items will be picked. Participating children will receive a small gift in return for their completed game card.

In addition to the Treasure Hunt, HistWick will hold a raffle for prizes including a hand painted oil cloth rug created by local artist, Ellen Dacey, a Christmas rug, donated by Wickford Collection, a work of art donated by one of the Wickford Art Association members, a Teddy Bear and several Christmas decorative items. Raffle tickets will be on sale the day after Thanksgiving in stores throughout town. You can purchase them while shopping in Wickford that week.

Dads, bring the kids—and the grandkids—for a fun stroll through the village. Help them discover a bit of Rhode Island history while Mom shops. Perhaps she'll find you that special winter gift.

Treasure Hunt game cards—and raffle tickets will be available at the HistWick table in Updike Park on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Who knows—you may be the winner of prizes that you and your family will treasure for a long time.

There are many other surprise events going on that weekend as well. Please check out the festival at <http://wickfordvillage.org>.

HistWick's Annual Holiday Potluck Supper-December 4th

On Sunday, December 4th, the community will come together to celebrate the holidays and enjoy an old fashioned Potluck Supper. We hope you will join your friends and neighbors at St. Paul's Parish House, 76 Main Street beginning at 5:30 pm. Most folks dress quite casually, so don't worry about your wardrobe. We ask that you bring a favorite dish to serve at least 8 people (as noted below) and prepare to have a great time sampling the variety of food and socializing with other folks in the community.

Last Names beginning with:

A - L Side Dish

M - Z Main Dish

There will be music provided by Maureen Corcoran, pianist and holiday caroling.

HistWick will provide coffee, tea, cold drinks and dessert.

RSVP: HistWick1@verizon.net or phone 294-2420. Given the increased popularity of this event, we are asking for RSVP's this year; we want to make sure we have enough tables set up.

We sincerely hope you can attend. If you have questions, please let us know.

Once an historic house is lost, it can never be replaced

...HistWick Board addresses members concerns

Several HistWick members attended a recent Board meeting to express concerns about the renovations at 23 Washington Street.

At the November 8th meeting of RI Coastal Resource Management Council regarding the alleged violations at 23 Washington St, Wickford, Edward Sanderson, Executive Director of the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission presented a report that clearly articulated the number and extent of the violations by the owner for this site. Mr. Sanderson declared that so much of the house had been torn down without permission that he had to now declare the house a "new" house. He requested that "based on the record of noncompliance CRMC should consider an administrative penalty in accordance with Section 170 of the CRMC rules."

As far as HistWick has been able to learn, some of the changes made had not been approved by the North Kingstown Historic District Commission. If these violations are not handled firmly by our town, state and federal officials, it will set a very dangerous precedent for all of the houses in Wickford Historic District.

The Board agreed to bring your attention to this situation and provide suggestions on what you can do if you want to register your concerns about the increasing loss of historic homes in Wickford. You should be receiving an email with information on steps you can take to be heard. We also encourage you to attend the next CRMC hearing which is scheduled for Dec 13th.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

December 4 : Annual HistWick Holiday Potluck Dinner, St. Paul’s Parish House, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(See Details inside)

December 2-4: Historic Home Treasure Hunt and Raffle (See Details Inside)

HistWick is looking for people interested in serving on the HistWick Board of Directors in 2011. Please contact a current board member if you would like to learn more about this opportunity.

Check out Tim Cranston’s article ‘Christmas in Olde Wickford Village’ on page 40 of the Holiday issue of South County Living.

Historic Wickford, Inc.
P.O.Box 261
North Kingstown, RI 02852

HISTORIC WICKFORD, INC.

Membership Form

Annual Individual / Family Membership \$25 Annual “Supporter”\$50 Annual “Donor” \$100+

Donor Members this year will receive a signed copy of

Tim Cranston’s new book Walking in Wickford - The History of Elamsville and the Wickford Business District

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____