
LEFFINGWELL INN NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 4 Members

www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org

Friends

Fall 2006

Craft EXPO – December 3rd

1. Dare we tell the members that the lip of the driveway has been tarred?

2. The holidays are coming. Are you feeling stressed? Are the commercials and the advertisements getting to you? Do you want to be transported to a simpler time and place? Visit the Leffingwell House Museum, 348 Washington St., Norwich, CT on Sunday, December 3rd from 1 PM – 4 PM. Learn the secrets of master craftspeople as they teach you how you can make your own gifts, decorations and jewelry. Spend quality time with your family making your decorations instead of spending time shopping for decorations. In place of just picking out a gift that's identical to all the rest, make a gift that's original, unique and so much more special because you thought of the person and took the time to make it. Are you concerned about global warming? Learn some ecologically friendly decorating tips and techniques. No admission is charged but donations will be gratefully accepted.

3. Wish I had the Holiday Wish list done. Rats!

4. Look for a special announcement early next year to celebrate a bit of Norwich history wherever the reader may be.

We're on the Radio

With thanks to Andy Russell, Vice President/General Manager at Hall communications the Leffingwell House Museum Annual Heritage Craft Fair will have advertisements on WICH, 29 times and KOOL-FM 101, 26 times between November 27th and December 3rd.

The air times Monday thru Friday vary so please listen for them. On Saturday, each station will play the ads twice between 6A - 10A, 10A-3P and 3P-7P and on Sunday, 2 more times between 10A -2P.

The funds we received as an advertising gift for KOOL-FM 101 were used entirely but we still have

money left on the certificate for WICH for our 2007 programs!

Don't forget to listen starting on November 27th!

Housekeepers: Not Anonymous

From 10 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday October 21st every room at the museum was dusted and cleaned by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Thanks to the hard work of April and Kyle Calhoun, Georgette Jordan, Wes Betler, Olive Buddington, Genevieve Calcasola, Nick Kopyck, Louise Stott, Scott and Lauren Veile, Jay Deming and Beryl Fishbone the museum is neat and clean and ready for to put on its holiday best for the 1st Annual Heritage Craft Fair on Sunday December 3, 2006 from 1 PM – 4 PM.

National History Day

March 23, 2007

Members and friends are once again encouraged to participate as judges in the National History Day program in Connecticut. This annual competition engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of researching and interpreting a historical topic of their choice related to an annual theme. The theme for the 2006-2007 academic year is *Triumph and Tragedy in History*. Working individually or in small groups, students are encouraged to find primary and secondary resources on their subject through research in libraries and museums, interviews, and visits to historic sites.

Students use their research to create a project to share with the public at one of five district History Day competitions held across Connecticut in the spring. Our District competition will be held on Friday evening, March 23, 2007 at Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, Montville (Oakdale) CT. Local historians, educators, and other professionals judge the students entries, and winners are eligible to

participate at the state competition held on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Special prizes, sponsored by local community organizations, are also awarded based on various topics. These may include cash or gift prizes. State winners are invited to attend the national History Day contest at the University of Maryland with over 2,000 other students from across the country.

The history Day program challenges participants to write their own history and fosters their creative talents. Students develop important research, thinking and presentation skills that they will use throughout their lives.

Judging consists of a team of three judges assessing student projects. All judging at History Day is done on a consensus basis and judges decisions are final. Judges are recruited from the local community; they are educators, historians, curators, video producers, writers, lawyers and business people with a love of history and education.

On the day of the competition, students bring their annotated bibliography and process paper. Judges ask the students questions at the conclusion of the student presentation to confirm that the students explored all avenues of inquiry, followed all the rules in the Contest Rule Book, and did the work themselves.

Judges complete a score sheet that will be given to each student after the contest. There is a specific score sheet for every category: paper, exhibit, performance and documentary. Students receive an overall rating as well as written comments.

For further information on History Day please visit history_day@chs.org or call Beryl Fishbone at 887-9000.

What does a Docent do?

Docents show visitors what it was like in an 18th century home and help visitors from all walks of life relate to history.

What does a Guide do?

A guide escorts visitors through the rooms of the museum encouraging them to look around but not touch the exhibits for themselves. Many docents begin as guides.

Does a Docent need to know everything about everything in the house and about the times?

Not at all. All volunteers are encouraged to be familiar with the basic background of the building and the people who once called it home. At Docent Training each person is given a background kit to read at their own convenience.

Individual tours are geared to the visitor by the docent giving the tour. By not having a standard tour or script return visitors can always depend on learning something new and different.

What if I'm not comfortable speaking to a group?

Relax. Most of our tours are individuals, couples and families.

Does it take a lot of time commitment? I'm very busy.

We ask for two Saturday afternoons from Noon to 4 during the season. Our 2007 season has been extended to 15 weekends. The hours will be Noon - 4 PM for tours. The Saturday Afternoon in New England Program is 1 PM-3 PM.

What if no one comes for a tour?

In the event of a quiet day, there will be various projects available to be worked on for the collections of the museum.

What if someone else has signed up for the weekend I wanted to work?

The more the merrier! Docents learn from one another and there is plenty of work for everyone.

Who do I contact to be a Docent?

Please contact Docent coordinator David Cannon at 887.2417 or Beryl Fishbone at 887.9000.

Questions & Answers for Leffingwell House Museum October 29th tour and Round Table

Touring the Museum

Do you offer tours?

We offer guided tours and have plans for a brochure and a map that will lead you through the home and some of its highlights. We currently have three volunteer docent programs, two that were re-instated only this year by request. We have adult docents, who have read a lot of material about Christopher Leffingwell and colonial times. We have Junior docents, usually between 13 - 18, who have read a lot of the materials about Christopher Leffingwell and colonial times. They give tours, answer questions, and also join in the summer program classes. We have hopes that some will be leading some of the classes or at least some parts of the

sessions next summer. Participation in the program gives the participants an opportunity to practice public speaking and leadership skills that will serve them well in the future. Because of the interest and enthusiasm shown by some of our regular summer program attendees we have an apprentice program for boys and girls 10 - 13. They help the docents on the tours as demonstrators for some of the exhibits. They also answer questions and participate in the summer sessions.

How long does the average visit take?

Most visitors spend between forty-five minutes to an hour for their visit.

How accessible is the property and home?

We have a single main driveway that's currently under re-construction for paving and have plans to have a single entry driveway and another exiting driveway within the next five years. Car and bus Parking will also be extended at that time.

The main floor of the house is physically challenged accessible. When we complete the 2 Town Street renovation the basement level will be accessible too. Unfortunately we have not figured out a way to make the top floor of this house built in 1675 accessible as well and keep it in character as a historic home snapshot.

Would you tell me about your On-Loan Exhibit?

Yes. Some of the exhibits here at the museum are actually on loan to us from other museums and personal collections. We thought it was time

that we gave some of these items some time in the spotlight.

A text book Exhibit?

Yes. As we were going through some of the books in our collection we came across a number of old text books and we thought it would be fun and interesting to compare text-books from the early 1700's through today.

Is there a gift shop?

We have a few items for sale at the main reception desk. In the plans for 2 Town Street is a more formal gift shop with a wider variety of items.

Do you have a restaurant or picnic facilities?

We do not have a restaurant or picnic facilities at this time.

May I bring my pet?

Sorry. Pets are not allowed at the museum.

Volunteering

Does a volunteer have to commit to a lot of time?

No. Some people volunteer only for special events. Some volunteer only for school group tours. Some volunteer for work that can be done at home. Some have a regular schedule each month of the time they can spend here. We encourage and accept every moment we can get of volunteer time.

Can anyone be a docent?

Yes! We provide training in the spring as well as a kit containing all the information

you'll need to give a tour. Every tour is different. We encourage our docents and guides to give the tour they would be most interested in taking. So some talk about the architecture, some about the needlework, some about the people who once walked about these floors.

Can I check out being a volunteer before I making a commitment?

Yes. Please come and enjoy any of our activities and see if its something you would like to participate in.

Do I need to make a reservation to explore becoming a volunteer?

No. If you exploring becoming a volunteer, just tell the person at the reception desk why you are there.

Activities

What is there for children to do?

Children of all ages enjoy learning at the museum. Older children imagine themselves back in time, while knitting, crocheting, and weeding in the garden. Toddlers like to watch the fires, even though they are electric and splash their hands in the wash tub.

What are the summer sessions?

For many years the Leffingwell House was a family, community and cultural center for Norwich and this past summer we offered "Afternoons in New England" a craft demonstration and education program

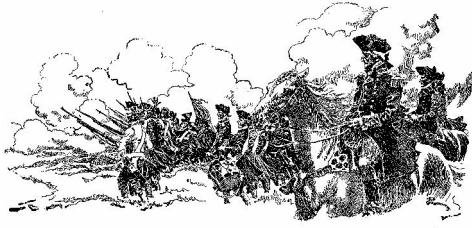
for children of all ages and levels of experience. Each Saturday afternoon during the summer from 1 - 3 pm we offered various classes, demonstrations or presentations. For example we had a re-enactor encampment, a wood-carving demonstration, beginner crochet and knitting circles, wash day - using an old fashioned scrub board, a historic Quilt exhibit, know tying demonstration, corn husk doll making and a Fall fair with a pie contest and colonial games.

What's the spring story time activity?

It's a small fundraiser for us. We will be opening the museum with re-enactors and storytellers in each of the main floor rooms. Adults are encouraged to bring their children to hear stories and adventures in the Tavern Room, Breakfast Room and Parlor. A light snack will be served in the kitchen. We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 per family. We'll have one in the spring and one in the fall.

What and when is the next activity?

The next activity will be Sunday December 3rd from 1 - 4 PM. We are having our Annual Heritage Craft Fair. Some people sell items but many of our crafters are just here to demonstrate and teach how to do a particular craft for gifts or decorating. It's a teaching craft fair for adults and children.



2007 Leffingwell House Calendar of Events

April 21	Spring Cleaning Exhibit Freshening	
April 28	Spring Cleaning Exhibit Freshening	
May	Wine 101 fundraiser	
	Opening of On-Loan Exhibit	
	Pie making with Joyce Brewster (Limited to 6 participants)	
	Spring Story time Activity	Storytellers, cookies and cocoa. 6 PM and 6:30 PM. \$5.00 per family
	Docent training and intro to new policies and procedures	
	Work on Garden/landscape	
	Painting touch-ups	
June 6	Annual Meeting	Speaker to be announced
June 9	Season Opening of the Museum and CT Museum Open House Day	
June 16	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
June 23	Saturday Summer Activity	Felt Making
June 30	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
July 14	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
July 21	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
July 28	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
August 4	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
August 11	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
August 11	Opening of the Text Book Exhibit	
August 11	Members Bring your own Picnic	Picnic on the grounds
August 18	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
August 25	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
September 1	Saturday Summer Activity	Labor Day / TBA
September 8	Autumn Fair	Close official season. Pie contest. Colonial Games
October	Walking Weekend	TBA
October 6	106 th Anniversary Celebration	Cake and Punch
October 13	Fall Cleaning of the Museum and Grounds	Noon – 4 PM
October 20	Fall Cleaning of the Museum and Grounds	Noon – 4 PM
October 27	Fall Story Time Activity	Storytellers, cookies and cocoa 6 PM & 7 PM. \$5.00 per family
November		
December 1 or 2	Holiday Craft Fair and Story time	



Watch for announcements of Quilts of Norwich and other activities and events. Saturday Programs will include drop spinning, natural dying, crochet, knitting, rope making, scrub board, corn husk doll making, and more.

Where should I look for more information about activities here at the museum?

Our website has been updated with a new look its <http://www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org/>.

The Norwich Bulletin, New London Day and the Resident newspapers have given us outstanding promotional coverage of events and we are hoping to expand our coverage into local radio and cable.

General Questions about the Leffingwell House Museum

How can I help support the Museum?

Memberships are available on a yearly basis. Societies of the Founders members enjoy free admission to the museum and all of its growing number of Special Events. Benefits include a newsletter subscription, use of the reference library and discounts on workshops.

The Society of the Founders of Norwich which owns and operates the Leffingwell House Museum is a Federal tax-exempt organization under 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

What is the Society of the Founders of Norwich?

The Society of the Founders of Norwich was founded in October of 1901 to "To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the Founders and Original Settlers of Norwich."

All persons who find themselves in sympathy with

the purposes of the Society may apply for [membership](#) and pay the annual dues. Those members who prove their [descent](#) from the original proprietors or earliest settlers of the Town of Norwich are given a [certificate of descent](#) and do not have to pay annual dues. We certainly appreciate their donations though!

Membership Report

Dues are coming in very slowly this year, if you haven't sent your dues as yet the schedule is as follows,

Senior citizens (over 65):\$15
Student: \$10
Individual: \$20
Family: \$30,
Sustaining: \$60,
Patron: \$150,
Life Membership: \$500

Holiday Gathering December 8

The re-enactors are coming! The re-enactors are coming! On Friday December 8th from 5:30 PM - 8 PM at the Leffingwell House Museum, the Millennium Committee will be hosting members of the Lebanon Town Militia. Dressed in period costumes they will portray various members of the colonial community such as an Innkeeper and his wife, a midwife-herbalist, gun makers and more. With an accent on the future of Two Town Street and its progress, Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT, overall goals for 2007 and a review of our very successful 2006 tourist season, all are invited to celebrate the start of the holiday season with laughter and joy and to partake of light refreshments.

Wish List

1-Year Membership to AASLH \$100
8-1/2x11 copy paper
AA Batteries for the wall clocks
Acid Free Tissue Paper
Acid Free Archival Protection Sleeves
Acid Free Archival Boxes
Adult mannequins

Anniversary Cake Sponsor
Card tables
Candles, Window, battery powered
Child size mannequins
Corporate Sponsors
Easels
Figure Forms
Foam Board
Folding 6 or 8 foot tables
Folding Chairs
Fundraising Help
Hammer
Large clear plastic storage bins
Light bulbs
Lights for the Summer Kitchen
Liquid Hand Soap
Male Mannequin
Micro Cleaning Cloths
Money
New Answering Machine
New Portable Telephone
Open House Refreshment Sponsor
Outdoor Sign Easels
Paper Towels
Pea stone for the walking paths and driveway
Pens
Plastic Tub with wheels
Portable large outdoor tent
Power Weed Whacker
Professional Exhibit Restoration (Wolf Pelt Rug and Revolutionary War Jacket)
Re-chargeable Flash Lights
Screw Driver
Sign Easels
Sponsorship of 1 Month Electricity
Sponsorship of a Summer Saturday Session
Sponsorship of one membership mailing
Stamps
Summer Program Refreshment Sponsors
Tissues
Toilet Paper
Trash Bags
Vacuum Shrink Bags (all sizes)
Waterproof paint for the basement walls
Yard maintenance tools

Any of these items or a designated contribution to purchase a specific item.

The Society of the Founders
Of Norwich, Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 13
Norwich, CT 06360

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #73
NORWICH, CT
06360

The following are excerpts from the Norwich Packet of 1773 - 5

Indian Corn

SOLD cheap for CASH, at the MILLS in
NORWICH-LANDING



DARIUS PECK,
WHEELWRIGHT

INFORMS the Public that he has removed from the Shop on the South Side of the Plain, to a new Building at the Back of the Shop where the Printing Office, was lately kept, on the opposite Side.

He gives ready Money and the Highest Price for well seasoned Spokes.

N. B. Good Encouragement and constant Employ will be given to a Journeyman who thoroughly understands said business.



Spoken Extempore, on raising the Liberty-Pole in Hebron.

*THE Sons of Liberty draw near,
And raise me up, and set me here;*

*And for their Freedom I'll appear,
As all the Just may See. ---*

*But here I stand for the Disgrace,
Of all the Tories in this place;
I can't but Curse that Wicked race,
If any such their be. ---*



CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW-LONDON, Oct. 5.

ENTERED IN,

Brigantine N. Packet.	Woodworth,	From New-York
Sloop Lizard,	Starr,	New-York
Sloop Patty,	Harris,	Gaspee,
Sloop Betsey,	Williamf,	Salem.

CLEARED OUT,

Schooner Chelsea,	Fanning	For New-York,
Sloop Betsey and Molly,	Perkinf,	Tobag