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# LEFFINGWELL INN NEWS

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Volume 4, Issue 3 Members

www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org

Friends

Summer 2009

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## Presidents Report

I am finding it awkward playing the part of President that was always someone else's job. Now it's mine. From time to time Beryl or someone else will turn to me and say "Boss, What do you want to do now?" I'm uncomfortable; I'd rather call a meeting and find out what the group wants. On the one hand we have a great staff and board of managers but obviously some decisions can't wait. I expect I'll grow into the position.

My main effort now is to get out of the Treasurer's job. We are fortunate to have Robin Tavares assuming the duties of that position and you will read more about her further down. I liked that job, knowing where the dollars went, but uneasy when the money was scant.

Avoiding detail just let me say we are working hard to develop programs to attract the public to the museum that they might discover this historic gem here in Norwich. We are also forging ahead with our plans to complete the development of the David Greenleaf house for use as our administration/city tourism office. The building will also accommodate our genealogy library and a docent apartment.

Finally we are blessed to have wonderful, dedicated volunteers that make all of this possible. However a few more would be welcome. If you are interested contact us and we will surely find an opportunity for you.

A. Jay Deming  
President  
Society of the Founders



## Seeds of Encouragement

The Leffingwell House Museum, 348 Washington Street, Norwich, CT is the proud recipient of a "Seeds of Encouragement" check award from Community Gardens As Appleseeds, of Los Gatos, California dedicated to encouraging community gardens and environmental education across the country. Norwich resident Natali Wall nominated the museum after reading about the organization on-line at [www.communitygardensasappleseeds.info](http://www.communitygardensasappleseeds.info).

"It all fit together." Said Natali as she presented the check to Beryl Fishbone, volunteer program chair for the museum. "Seeds of Encouragement wants to promote and educate people with community gardens. The museum does that with its gardens and Saturday programs and the museum grounds are already a certified National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat and educational facility."

The Leffingwell House Museum has a variety of native and colonial period flowers, herbs, and vegetables grown for education and demonstration

purposes such as food flavoring, healing and cloth dying. The museum gardens uses mulch from its own pile and this year a rain barrel is being used for watering. "Our barrel is plastic rather than wood as it would be in colonial times but it serves the purpose of decreasing the demand for city water to water the garden and when our visitors see it, they realize how easily they can make one for their garden at home." Said Society of the Founders President Jay Deming

The backyard wildlife program encourages the same colonial practices in the modern setting for historic education and for education and preservation of nature for the future.

The Leffingwell House Museum is open for tours on Saturdays through October 2009 from noon to 4 PM. Visitors to the grounds are asked to please not chase, attempt to pet or feed the woodchuck.



# SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 10, 2009

1 - 3 PM

## The Society of the Founders of Norwich

will be celebrating its

# 108<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

With cake and punch in the tavern room of the

Leffingwell House Museum

348 Washington Street  
Norwich, CT 06360

### Volunteers Wanted

Volunteer some time. 30 minutes of picking up the trash on the lawn is great for the waistline. 1 or 2 hours weeding the gardens. 30 minutes watering the plants from the new water barrel. 10 minutes filling the birdfeeders in the winter. Volunteer one hour to clean one room or display in the museum. No amount of time is too little. Talk about the museum and the society to your friends, church, job and meetings. Encourage them to visit and become a member or a supporter. Ask them to participate in our Fall Festival Scarecrow Contest. Participate yourself or bake a pie for the pie contest. Come and play a game. Your presence at events at the museum is a present to the Society!

**\$10.00 or less** donations can help pay for

One years supply of toilet paper  
One years supply of paper towels  
One winters supply of birdseed  
One years supply of dish soap  
Update the first-aid kit

2 gallons of gas for the lawnmower  
1 gallon paint for touch-ups as needed  
Museum display updates – signs, printing expenses, display holders  
Minor repairs  
Garden plants, seeds, manure  
And More

**\$20.00 or less** donations can help

Contribute to the costs of our  
Norwich Utilities – Gas, electric water and sewerage.  
Telephone  
Alarm System  
Insurance  
Winter insulation

**\$20.00 or more** donations help us continue to operate and create new and exciting programs, display and adventures for our members and visitors.

Home-based Society of the Founders activities;

- Readers of colonial period children's stories are needed to help determine and discover

which stories can be read to appropriately aged children. Computer is not required. All year

- Legacy Project - The stories of the street names of Norwich need to be researched, written and transcribed if necessary for compilation in searchable and book formats. Computer is not required. All year.
- Legacy Project - Interviewing of business owners, operators and workers of small local companies for future social and society educational study. Computer is not required. Transportation is up to the volunteer. All year.
- Research information about the items on display in the museum. Computer is not required. All year
- Schedule and arrange fundraisers. Your choice of date, time & place
- Schedule demonstrations for the 2010 season
- Fold and stamp newsletters – 4X a year
- Raise starter plants for next years gardens – March - April
- Super secret artsy fundraising project. We are still looking for donations of new wood handled household brooms, mops and other utensils for this fundraiser to take off. August - October

Would you be willing to help with one day a year events?

- Annual Meeting in June  
set-up/clean-up  
Refreshments  
After meeting speaker/entertainment  
Transportation for non-drivers  
Fundraiser at meeting
- Annual National Wildlife Federation Camp-out in June  
Tent sponsor  
Food/ Refreshment sponsor  
Wildlife demonstrator/host  
Activities Host  
This event takes place on the grounds of the museum.
- Fall Festival Sept. 17th

Bake an apple or pumpkin pie for the contest.

Supervise children while they play a game or participate in a contest  
Accept registrations for people entering scarecrow contests.

Accept registrations for people entering pie contest.

Be a host for various judges.

Help set up some of the games for the children

- Birthday Anniversary Host  
Help serve cake and cider/punch in the tavern room of the museum to the public for our 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary. October 10th
- Spring Clean-up Day – Rake the yard. Cut the unwanted growth. Prepare the gardens.
- Fall Clean-up Day – Rake the yard. Cut the unwanted growth. Prepare the garden for winter. October 3rd
- Museum Closing Day we need to put away displays and secure the windows and other openings to keep our winter costs down. October 24th
- Would you be willing to help shovel the snow on the Washington Street sidewalk in front of the museum? November - April
- Help collect and sort the blankets as they are delivered to the museum? Saturdays in August

In the museum

- Would you help us clean? April - November
- Create and up-date displays. April - June
- Catalogue the library April - June
- Update the genealogy database – All year
- Would you host a school group tour? Sept & Oct and April - June
- Open House CT Day in June–  
Room Host  
Refreshment Host

Can I bring my mother, father, child? YES!  
Can I bring someone not a member of the Society?  
YES!  
Can I help even if I haven't paid my dues? YES!  
Do things still happen if it rains. YES!

Can I come if I can't sit, stand, lay down or walk for  
long periods of time? YES!

We have room and a job for everyone who has an  
interest.

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### “Blanket Norwich With Love”

Temperatures are going to start dropping soon and many in our area will need your help to stay “snug as a bug” this winter. Leffingwell House Museum, 348 Washington Street, Norwich, CT invites you, your family and friends, church and school groups, businesses and others to help us “Blanket Norwich With Love.”

We will be collecting new and gently used blankets and comforters for distribution to local shelters, Red Cross and Salvation Army. Every Saturday in August from Noon to 4 PM the Leffingwell House Museum will accept donations. Now is a great time to check your closets for old blankets or to organize a blanket collection through your church, school or business. We appreciate all your help!

The goal of the museum is to collect 350 blankets this year in honor of the City of Norwich's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary but if we can collect more it'll be even better!

The history of Norwich is rich with examples of citizens who are ready to lend a helping hand, citizens who care about themselves and others. In the early days of the American Revolution word was received in Norwich that blankets were needed by the troops. Within days, 300 women from Norwich and the local area were sewing 500 blankets which were quickly dispatched with food and other supplies with more following. The Leffingwell House Museum is merely keeping tradition alive.

If you would like to help “Blanket Norwich With Love” collect blankets or for more information, please call 860.887.9000, visit the museum on any Saturday afternoon or write Blanket Norwich With Love, C/O Society of the Founders, PO Box 13, Norwich, CT 06360.

“Blanket Norwich With Love” is modeled after the

“Blanket The City With Love” campaign organized by California Mall, Stockton, CA.



### Have you met Chuck?

Have you met Chuck on the grounds of the Leffingwell House Museum? He is a bit of a recluse but he has long brown hair and dark eyes that never miss a thing. He is always on the alert. He is very difficult to engage in conversation but his whistle is loud and clear if he even thinks there is a danger to his home. Chuck takes an afternoon “constitutional” to the clover bed in the driveway of the museum nearly every day about 3 PM. His home is really on the state property just below the highway but it's our lawn where he feasts on all natural grubs and clover. Chuck has a bit of a weight problem so he requests no snacks be left out for him.

Chuck is the Leffingwell House Museum resident groundhog. The **groundhog** (*Marmota monax*), also known as **woodchuck**, is a [rodent](#) of the family [Sciuridae](#), belonging to the group of large ground [squirrels](#) known as [marmots](#). The woodchuck is a lowland creature and common in the northeastern and central [United States](#).

Mostly [herbivorous](#), groundhogs primarily eat wild grasses and other vegetation, and berries and agricultural crops when available. Groundhogs also eat [grubs](#), [grasshoppers](#), [insects](#), [snails](#) and other small animals, but are not as [omnivorous](#) as many other sciurids.

Most places with gardens discourage tenants like Chuck “but the grounds of the museum are a certified National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat and we try hard to live with nature and to enjoy its beauty, its bounty and its challenges.” said newly elected Society of the Founders President, Jay Deming.

### New Member of the Board

Robin Tavares is the new treasurer of the Society of the Founders. She is 31 years old. Robin works for Eastern Federal Bank in Norwich CT. She is married with two sons Owen (me), 11, and Derek 21 months. Her family lives in Norwich.

Robin got involved with the Leffingwell Inn a few years ago. She grew up in Preston with the Cannon family.

When she attended the Millennium Fundraiser a few years ago and saw the Cannons there. When she returned to the Leffingwell Inn with her son, Mrs. Cannon asked her to be a manager on the Society of the Founders.

Robin joined because the Society of the Founders runs the Leffingwell Inn entirely by volunteers. When she was asked she was quick to join to try to help out in any way possible. She thinks the museum is a great treasure of Norwich's history. Robin finds the examples of crafts and stories of the people who founded Norwich interesting. She thinks it feels great to be a part of the Society of the Founders and their work to preserve Norwich's history. She said, "It's nice to see all of the work the SOF has done in the past one hundred plus years". Robin likes discovering things the SOF created like the plaque on the Norwichtown Green and the monument in Greenville showing where George Washington took the ferry in order to get to Newport, RI.

Owen Tavares  
Contributing reporter

## **Storytellers Wanted**

Must like children and have own transportation. The Society of the Founders of Norwich would like to begin a program to bring storytellers to local pre-schools and grade schools in the Norwich area.

The goal of the program is to introduce children and adults to history through the reading aloud from story books from the 17 and 1800's.

Storytellers would arrange their own schedules and be responsible for keeping a detailed record of what classes they have read to. Student reactions to the stories would also be helpful. Unfortunately taking pictures of the children is against the rules in most schools. Representatives of the school and students may however take pictures of the visiting storyteller with your permission.

All advertising for the program will be done by the Society of the Founders of Norwich.

Storytellers are responsible for fingerprint and background checks as required by law for all adults working with children. A Society of the Founders

Identification card will be provided upon successful background check notification for participants.

Some stories from the 17 and 1800's are currently considered to be violent and care must be taken to choose only stories and pictures that meet today's general standards for children. Absolutely and under no circumstances will material rated above G be read or introduced into any classroom by a volunteer storyteller. It is also asked that religious and stories from and of the bible not be used. Volunteers are asked to choose appropriate stories from any available sources including their own collections, libraries and the Leffingwell House Museum collection.

It is the choice of the volunteer to wear an appropriate colonial period costume or not. Commercial costumes and facemasks are not allowed.

It is recommended that classroom visits should be limited to 30 minutes or less.

To protect our volunteers it is requested that all correspondence for this program including thank you notes from the classes be sent to Society of the Founders of Norwich, PO Box 13, Norwich, CT 06360. The Society will then forward the correspondence to the volunteer.

To volunteer for this program please call Beryl at 887.9000

## **Scrapbooker Wanted**

Work at home. At your convenience.

The Society of the Founders needs someone to keep a scrapbook of the articles and pictures that appear in the various local newspapers – Norwich Bulletin, New London Day, Reminder, and Visitor.

Each entry needs to include the article, the date, page and name of the publisher.

Be the keeper for only one paper, two papers or all. The choice is yours. Sorry, no reimbursement for costs but the enormous gratitude of the organization.

Please contact Beryl at 887.9000 if you are interested.



### CT Notary Public

Beryl Fishbone

My commission expires 12/31/2013

**Available Saturdays Noon – 4**

At Leffingwell House Museum

Thru October 2009

Service fee will be donated to museum



### Newsletter

To receive this newsletter via the internet contact the editor at [info@leffingwellhousemuseum.org](mailto:info@leffingwellhousemuseum.org). This will save postage and speed up your receipt of the news. This newsletter and previous releases are available on our Webpage.

Jay Deming  
Editor

Alden, Andrew  
Armstrong, Jr, Daniel  
Atwater, Luman  
Avery, Charles  
Backus, Samuel  
Baldwin, Olover  
Beebe, Joab  
Bliss, Palatiah  
Breed, David  
Breed, Gershom  
Bushness, Capt. Richard  
Calkin, Betty  
Calkin, Simon  
Champlin, William  
Clark, Samuel  
Clark, Waters  
Clements, Jeremiah  
Colver, Hannah  
Colver, Jonathan  
Crocker, Jabez  
Durkee, Major John  
Eams, Josiah

Eddy, Caleb  
Fish, Jehue  
Flint, Nathaniel  
Freeman, Joannah  
Freeman, Joseph  
Fuller, Aamos  
Gardner, Preserved  
Griswold, Simon  
Hartshorn, Diah  
Hastings, Joseph  
Hazen, William  
Hide, Anne  
Hide, Josiah  
Hide, Silas  
Homes, Seth Wyman  
Johnson, William  
Knowls, John  
Lalley, James  
Livingstone, James McCarty  
Morgan, Elisha  
Negro, Philops  
Otis, Joseph

Peck, Joseph  
Pettis, Samuel  
Qushman, Elezer  
Rogers, Capt. Zebdiah  
Rogers, Theophilus  
Rogers, Zebdiah  
Rudd, Samuel  
Shoals, Nathan  
Smith, David  
Smith, William  
Squire, Jr, John  
Sutton, Hannah  
Thomas, Jr, Ebenezer  
Tracey, Lareas  
Waller, Hannah  
Waterman, David Baret  
Wedge, Mary  
Wheat, Benjamin  
Wheat, Mary  
Wheat, Samuel  
Williams, Simon  
Wood, Phineas

What do you really know about your great-great relatives? Tucked in the archives of the Leffingwell House Museum is the "Connecticut Justice Court Records 1769-1794 including Marriage Records 1769-1774, 1787-1795 kept by Elijah Backus Justice of the Peace." The names have not been changed and everyone was guilty. Learn their crime, their fine and their sentence. Were they drunk? Did they disturb the peace? Steal a horse? Conspire with the enemy? Sue or be sued? Learn why their name is on the list below.

Examine the list below for yourself when you visit the Leffingwell House Museum Saturday noon – 4 PM through October 2009.

### Pre-Colonial Leffingwells Genealogy Project

In a prior newsletter we misspelled Mr. Leffingwell's e-mail address and we correct it here: [backwardsforeword@gmail.com](mailto:backwardsforeword@gmail.com). Mr. Leffingwell is investigating the English origins of Thomas Leffingwell of Saybrook and Norwich, and Michael Leppingwell of Woburn.

The Editor

ANNUAL DUES: June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010

Annual Rates

Student .....	\$10.00
Senior Citizen (over 65)	\$15.00
Individual .....	20.00
Family .....	30.00
Sustaining.....	60.00
Patron .....	150.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your address above for accuracy or necessary corrections. Make checks payable to: **The Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT, Inc.**, and send to:

Mrs. Walter Green  
C/o The Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 13,  
Norwich, CT 06360-0013

Donations to the Philip A. Johnson Endowment Fund dedicated to the upkeep of the Museum \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the general fund for use to maintain the other properties, offset activities costs, stock the gift shop, etc. \$\_\_\_\_\_

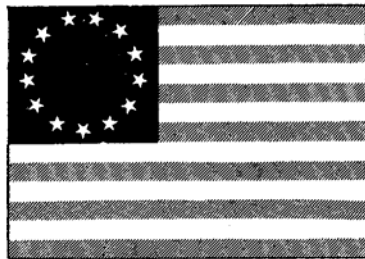
Donation as a Memorial to: \_\_\_\_\_ In the amount of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

I have included the Leffingwell House Historic Museum (Society of the Founders of Norwich) in my will.

I am interested in including the Society of the Founders of Norwich in my will.

*(All contributions above the amount of membership are tax deductible)*

***Please save us follow-up postage by sending your dues promptly. They are payable June 1, 2009.***



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## Founders of Norwich Connecticut

Dea. Thomas Adgate  
Robert Allyn  
William Backus, Sr.  
Lt. William Backus, Jr.  
John Baldwin  
Dea. Thomas Bingham  
John Birchard  
Thomas Bliss  
Morgan Bowers  
John Bradford  
Hugh Calkins  
John Calkins

Richard Edgerton  
Rev. James Fitch  
John Gager  
Lt. Francis Griswold  
Thomas Howard  
Christopher Huntington  
Dea. Simon Huntington  
Samuel Hyde  
William Hyde  
Lt. Thomas Leffingwell  
Maj. John Mason  
Dr. John Olmstead

John Pease  
John Post  
Thomas Post  
Josiah Reed  
John Reynolds  
Jonathon Royce  
Rev. Nehemiah Smith  
Sgt. John Tracy  
Lt. Thomas Tracy  
Robert Wade  
Sgt. Thomas Waterman

Are you related to one of our Founding Families? Tell us about it.

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