



Historical Society News

DECEMBER 2011

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA AND HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

The Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society invites the community to its annual Christmas Tea and Holiday Boutique from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 11. Members of the Society decorated the house in a Williamsburg theme. Entertainment will be provided by students from two Hightstown High School choruses under the leadership of Cathy Anzuini at 2 p.m. The Society appreciates Cathy bringing her students every year, providing entertainment for our tea.

In the Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center, members from The First Presbyterian Church will be bringing some handmade Christmas articles for sale for the holiday boutique. Rocky Brook Garden Club will have wreaths and centerpieces for sale during the Christmas Tea.

Christmas Candlelight House Tour

The Hightstown Woman's Club will be selling Christmas Candlelight House Tour tickets at Ely House after 1:30 p.m. A tour of seven private homes in Hightstown and East Windsor is planned from 3 to 6 p.m. Members of the H i g h t s t o w n Woman's Club will act as docents during the tour. We thank the homeowners who decorated and opened their homes. The Christmas tour is organized every two years. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



December 2011

- 11 Christmas Tea, Ely House, 2-4 p.m.
- 11 Candlelight House Tour, 3-6 p.m.

January 2012

- 14 Work Party at Ely House
- 29 Annual Banquet, Longstreet Library, Peddie School

After rummaging through old folders of previous Society tours, this editor found some histories of the houses on Christmas tour this year which she wanted to share. Although seven houses are on tour, she has chosen three to feature in this newsletter.

The Herb and Naomi Olsen house, 706 Old York Road, built circa 1856, will feature two freshly cut trees with Nativities under each. Naomi is making a spectacular flocked, snow-covered tree made with cornstarch and sugar. You will appreciate the vintage ornaments and hand-painted decorations, as well as homemade wreaths and swags of pine and boxwood.

This editor asked Dale Grubb, about her memories growing up in the Olsen house. Dale wrote the following: "I lived there from 1950 until 1964 and have many wonderful memories growing up there. The house belonged to Samuel Pepler who ran the business next door—Thomas Pepler, Son, and Company, (Thomas being his father). They sold farm equipment, paint, and other items you would find in a hardware store. There were several barns which my sister and I would explore when we were little. This was considered the country then. The house was surrounded by open fields owned by Conover's Dairy, and my family and I would take long walks in the fields when the cows weren't there. I still have dreams about my time growing up there. I can't wait to see my old room again."

The L'vov 1926 farmhouse, 201 East Ward Street, will hold lots of surprises in every room, including holiday decorations in teal, lime, and gold, and a great display of peacock feathers. Upstairs, visit the pig-themed room with a pink Christmas tree and the violet room with its whimsical décor. Don't miss the owner's collection of Russian Gzhel china in her newly renovated kitchen.

Beth Wham was asked to write some memories about her former home, now owned by Pavel and

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Christmas Tea and House Tour *continued from page 1*

Nichole L'vov. Beth provided the following:

"The L'vov home at 201 East Ward Street in Hightstown was built by Russell Davison about 1926. Davison sold the house to Phoebe Suydam in 1950. In 1954, the house was bought by Dr. and Mrs. George Wham who resided there for almost 50 years. In 1964 it was extensively redesigned and renovated by the Wham family with the addition of the large downstairs room with a brick floor, two upstairs bedrooms, two bathrooms, a circular stairway, and the original stairway straightened. The large front terrace porch and brick columns were added at the same time.

In 1994, the garage, a former barn located at the rear of the property, burned when a lawn tractor ignited. The present three-car garage with an upstairs room was built in late 1994. The property was sold by the Wham family to the L'vov family in September, 2002."

The De Lois Greenwood home, 236 Stockton Street. This 200-year old Victorian, built circa 1885, has some of the most beautiful carved marble and stone fireplaces in Hightstown. Visitors will be welcomed through double doors with etched glass. Inside, much of the woodwork is original including ornate door and window plinths, parquet floors, pocket doors, an elaborate mirrored mantle in the front parlor and several fireplaces. The house was built by David and Mary Cunningham who ran the town pharmacy at the bottom of Stockton Street. David was a prominent citizen who was First Vice President of the First National Bank, President of the Board of Education, and a Trustee of the Peddie School. DeLois will be decorating a tree in the front parlor donated by Keris Tree farm in Allentown. We thank the Keris family for donating all the trees on tour.

Next year the Society will sponsor its historical house tour on October 21, 2012. Five of our members have agreed to have their homes open on tour. Please call Shirley Olsen or Robin Smith if you would like to participate on the tour committee or wish to open your home for the tour.

The Society wishes to thank the continued efforts of members of Rocky Brook Garden Club for decorating the Ely House with fresh greens every year. We also thank the Hightstown Woman's Club and the Friday Club for all their baking and hostessing. All the left-over cookies will be packed for Operation Cookie Candy for our local seniors and shut-ins. Society members are encouraged to bake cookies and bring them at 1:30 p.m. the day of tea. We also thank Ron and Eileen Couturier for the annual supply of cider and spices and to Marion Rock for making our boxwood wreath on the front door.

WORK PARTY SET FOR JAN. 14—WE NEED YOU!

On November 30, the Society had the Ely House and Sara Hutchinson West Educational Center professionally cleaned. Several members have volunteered to wash the crystal lamps, glass bowls, dishes and other fragile objects in the house. We need help to accomplish this task. A work day has been set up for Saturday, January 14, 2012, at 10 a.m. in Ely House. If you can volunteer to help in this task, please call Shirley Olsen at 448-8388. *Many hands make light work!*

HIGHTSTOWN EAST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Hightstown, New Jersey
Founded 1971*

**To educate, while preserving for
future generations, our people
and our community's history.**

Shirley Olsen, Editor



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609.443.4700

*May Joy and Peace Come to You This Holiday Season
and every day of the New Year*



2011

Bob and Ibbby Carson ♦ Scott Caster

Linda Cholewiak

Rev. Elizabeth "Liz" Congdon

The Craig Family

Jim, Jody, Andrew, Elizabeth DiCecco and
Sara and Dan Woodhead

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Bob and Kathy Patten ♦ Bob Sprout ♦ Cappy and Chris Stults and family

Robert and Corinne Szychowski ♦ Woody and Lynne Wallace

Steven and Jennifer
Worringer

ANNUAL BANQUET SET FOR JANUARY 29 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

The annual banquet is set for Sunday, January 29, 2012, at 1 p.m. at the Longstreet Library, at the Peddie School campus. Price is \$35 per person and reservations must be made by January 23, 2012. Checks should be made out to the **H.E.W. Historical Society** and sent to Shirley Olsen, 6 Farr Ave., Hightstown, NJ 08520.

Mark Alan Hewitt and will be our guest speaker. Mark

will be presenting a program on his latest book titled, "The Vintage House: A guide to Successful Additions and Renovations". Mr. Hewitt is an architect, historian, and preservationist who practices in Bernardsville, NJ. Mr. Hewitt recently served as a consultant to Rick Pratt, Chairman of the Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission. The public is invited and encouraged to attend what should be an interesting presentation.

~NOTE~

Beginning February 2012 Ely House will be open the last Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m.

Support Antique Show

Kathy Patten and Robert Szychowski are chairing an Antique Show fund raiser for the historical society on March 31, 2012, at Hightstown High School, Leshin Lane, Hightstown. We are still looking for dealers to participate and would appreciate volunteers helping to make this a successful event. Please contact Kathy or Robert to contribute some time or advice in making this a successful fund raiser.

Annual Membership Application (January-December)

JOIN TODAY ~ BECOME A MEMBER!

- Individual Membership—\$20.00
- Family Membership—\$25.00
- Booster/Patron Membership—\$40.00
- Sustaining Membership—\$50.00
- Life (Individual) Membership—\$200.00
- Life (Married) Membership—\$275.00

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

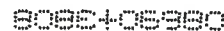
Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail the completed application, along with a check made payable to the **Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society** to:

**2012 DUES
ARE DUE
JANUARY 1ST**

Membership Committee
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society
164 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520



Mrs. And Mrs. Robert Craig
4002 Nottingham Way
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164 North Main Street
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