



The Bridge

Electronic Newsletter from the Naugatuck Historical Society: May, 2011

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May, 2011

Imagine P. T. Barnum



The Colorful Life and Times of Connecticut's own P. T. Barnum as told by Marian O'Keefe will be presented on Wednesday evening, May 18th. 7 p.m. Enjoy an evening of humorous and entertaining stories about the life of this colorful man who introduced us to Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale", Tom Thumb, and the Feejee Mermaid. Although he described himself in this way "I am a showman by profession and all the gilding will make nothing else of me." He was also a politician, a business man, philanthropist and reformer and Mayor of Bridgeport.

Marian O'Keefe is a local historian and member of

the Derby Historical Society, The Seymour Historical Society and The Barnum Museum in Bridgeport. She will provide us with an evening of amusing, entertaining, and informative stories using descriptive slides.

Perhaps she will tell us if it was P. T. Barnum that arranged an appearance of Jenny Lind at the Gem Opera House in Naugatuck.

May 18th, 7pm at the Naugatuck Historical Society

Free; and open to all members, membership applications are accepted that evening, \$2 for all non-members.

3rd Annual Art Show

The Naugatuck Historical Society is please to announce its third annual Art Show.

Lewis Dube, a third time participant in the Art Show and chairman of the Art Show committee was discussing the importance of the art. Lewis believes that everyone has the ability to create art.

The first year the Art Show featured two local artists, last year we had over 20. He believes it is important for everyone to get a chance to view art and all artists should have a venue for their art.

New to the Art Show this year is a display of youth art from Hop Brook School. Artist and teacher Eva Seifert is coordinating the youth art. Lewis was very excited to hear the interest of the teacher in both the displaying of her students' art and also her interest in having some of her work displayed. According to Lewis many great artists have been inspired by children. "Children's art is not childish art, but art created by children," Lewis Dube explained.

A Celebration of Art will kick off the second part of the week with a reception includ-

ing live music, wine, food and silent auction. Join us as we celebrate our local artists and their art.

Tickets for the Celebration of Art are available at the museum. The museum will be open for special hours that week.

Celebration of Art

June 4th from 7-9pm

Come join us for the opening reception of our third annual art show featuring local artists. This year we are pleased to be including roughly 40 artists, wine, cheese, live music and Silent Auction. Tickets are \$10 for the reception. There will be a special display of Hop Brook Student Art June 1-3rd.

Naugatuck Historical Society Museum
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www.naugatuckhistory.com

May's Events

2nd Annual Car Cruise	1pm	1
Naugatuck Green-VFW		
First Thursdays	6-8pm	5
Hillside Band	7pm	
Collette's Craft	11am	14
Civil War Flags		
General Meeting	7pm	18
Marian O'Keefe		
Sunday Series	1pm	22
Classic Movie-Grand Hotel		
Veteran's Council		27
Concert at City Hill		

Coming Soon

◆ June 2nd - First Thursdays

Hop Brook Art, 6-8pm

◆ June 4th

Celebration of Art, 7pm

◆ Colette's Craft Program,

Special Summer Session

Give your children a hands-on-history experience this summer - special programs will run at 11am on Fridays July 8—August 5; call for more information or to register.



Together We Build a Stronger Community

In the Community Section of The Bridge each month we highlight in one or two sentences different ways we worked with groups, people, schools and businesses to build a stronger community. This month we had an extraordinary amount of connections.

that it was important for people to feel connected and involved in the community and in the education of their families. Those connections would lead to a community that was stronger physically, mentally and financially.

April's Community Connections:

- 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Civil War Re-enactors
- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Central Avenue School
- Fitzpatrick, Mariano & Santos
- Naugatuck Arts Council
- Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce
- Naugatuck Community Band
- Naugatuck Economical Development Corporation
- Naugatuck High School
- Naugatuck Public Works
- Naugatuck River Revival Group
- Parent School Council
- Patch

When Charles Howard Whittemore was working on the design for the Green and the buildings surrounding the Green, they were planned to connect people in a multitude of ways including; religious, civic, academic and recreational. As a part of the City Beautiful Movement he felt

Today Naugatuck is blessed to have so many organizations dedicated to making Naugatuck a better place to live, work and raise a family. The Naugatuck Historical Society is extremely proud to be a part of the community and honored to be working so closely with so many.

"...insuring the preservation of records and archives of the town; and to disseminate historical information and attempt to arouse interest in the past."

Naugatuck Historical Society mission statement

Community Connections

Volunteer Connections

April was a very busy month for the Naugatuck Historical Society. Here I would like to give special thanks to all of our own volunteers who lead field trips, greeted, lead tours, visited schools, chaired events and volunteered regularly. Volunteer training is available

Member Connections

Members -individual, family, organizational and corporate; are the backbone of the Society. They provide regular consistent funding. Members provide an audience for our programs. Members each bring their individual talents and insights to our organiza-

Naugatuck Connections

Everyone is an important part of our organization -if you are reading this newsletter, put a flyer up in your store window, tell a friend about a program, visit the museum with your family or your child's class, or drop off a donation, you are all a part of our community.

Colette's Craft Program

A hands on approach to history

Colette's Craft program will be held on the second Saturday of every month at 11 am. Registration is highly recommended. The program is recommended for children ages 5 and up. This program is open to member and non-members.

Call to volunteer or register. Admission is free for children participating in the program, but there is a \$2 supply fee. Regular admission applies to adults, \$2 or free with membership.

May 14 – The American flag in 1861, the history and meaning of the flag during the Civil War.

Stay tuned for special summer programs -Fridays in July and August

