



The Bridge

Electronic Newsletter from the Naugatuck Historical Society: September, 2011

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September, 2011

Naugatuck Teen Theater P-A-C-K-S the House

The Naugatuck Teen Theater put on the Musical “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” at the Museum last month. The group worked to put on this entertaining coming of age musical to a full house on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. This year we are pleased they considered the Museum a good venue for their summer production. It is our hope that this becomes an annual event and a good opportunity for the Naugatuck

Teen Theater to allow their graduating members to work together one last time before going off to school.

This year’s cast included nine players and audience participation. Some of the players had multiple roles with costume changes between numbers. Jeffrey O’Brien playing three different roles managed quite a few costume changes. Other actors such as Austin Carnes managed two roles but with almost opposite personalities. The

show was directed by one of the members and actors in the show, Curtis Dunn.

NTT is a non-profit organization that offers teens within the area (not just Naugatuck) an opportunity to enhance their skills putting on performances for the community. The organization’s work also provides the community with an affordable option for families to enjoy live theater and well known productions close to home.



“Dear, Hystoricle Society Thank you”

A quick look back as we sharpen our quill pens for the beginning of another school year.

Last year over 200 students came through the Museum and got to experience some of the field trip and program options we offer. Other schools opted to invite us to come and present programs to their school or class. Working with some of the local Veterans we were able to give students at Naugatuck High School the unique opportunity to get a personal look at the experience of war.

It is your membership that make it possible for students a to experience life as a colonial child or discover tools of a Civil War soldier? Becoming a member of the Society is contributing to those programs and new ones being developed.

As we sharpen our quill pens for another school year we wanted to share with you some of the thoughts from local students.

We have some wonderful thank you letters we have received from the students that we would like to share with you.

“I had so much fun. I learned a lot about the history back then. I want to go back and learn more.”

“Thank you for giving us a tour of Naugatuck’s past.”

“It was very awesome when you told us the chores for the girls and boys.”

This is just a small sample of the letters we have received from students to the Society for making it all happen.

Thank you

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September Events

First Thursdays

Rescheduled

BOD Meeting 9/21 7pm

Harvest Moon Fair 8/16 –8/17

9am-8pm

Naugatuck Green Architectural Tours
Museum is closed

Museum Hours

Wed - Fri 12-4

Saturdays 10-2

First Thursdays 6-8pm

Coming Soon

◆ Naugatuck All Arts Festival

Naugatuck Green

◆ Civil War Songs

October 23rd

The Hills

◆ Fire Department History-All October

First Thursdays

Colette’s Craft

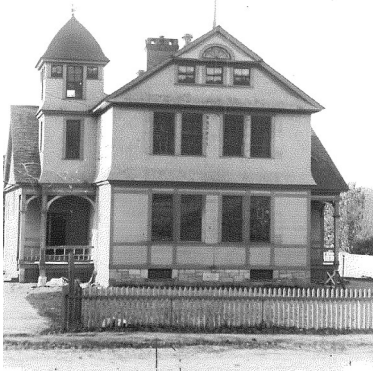
Sunday Series

◆ Girl Scout exhibit –November

Girl Scouts turn 100!

Facebook

The Naugatuck Historical Society is now on Facebook look for our group page, non-profit page or friend Charles Goodyear.



Oak Street School

What's In a Name? Oak Street School

by Sandra Clark, Town Historian

During the late 1800's, a drive to reduce truancy in the Naugatuck schools resulted in the building of many new schoolhouses. Desk and chairs replaced benches of earlier years. These provided more comfort for the children. In the new schools, furnaces, rather than wood burning stoves provided heat. Warmth could be felt in every corner of the classroom.

Along with making the classrooms more comfortable; schoolwork and instruction were improved making school a more interesting and desirable place to attend.

In 1890, Oak Street School was built to service the east side of town. It was included in the Union Center School District, one of the five school districts in Naugatuck. The school committee reported that a thermostat had been installed and the walls had been tinted. Registration in June of 1909 had 85 students enrolled in the school. With a weekly registration of just over 81 students and a term registration of just over 78 students.

Enrollment was up, the total cost of the alterations was \$158.02. The report states: "As almost all of the repair work has been done by all

our janitors, a great savings has been made for the district and we invite your inspection as to the condition of the buildings."

Oak Street School continued in its function as a schoolhouse until the 1940's. Today, the building remains standing on Oak Street School, adjacent to the cemetery. It is now the home of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

If you would like to learn more about the historic schools in Naugatuck or read some more of the old reports they are housed in the Do-back Room at the Museum.

"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."

Abraham Lincoln

Community Connections

Commission Connections

Look for us on October 1st at the First Annual Naugatuck All Arts Festival on the Green sponsored by the Naugatuck Arts Commission. The Arts Commission brings the arts to Naugatuck through creative and entertaining programming be sure to check out their calendar of events.

Volunteer Connections

The Naugatuck Historical Society and Museum are a volunteer based organization dedicated to preserving and sharing local history while inspiring the next generation of historians. If you have a talent any talent, we can use your help, call or stop by for more information on how to help.

Education Connections

We are available to teachers, administrators and students for reference assistance. We offer free field trips for Naugatuck schools. Many of our programs also offer unique learning experiences for students and families outside of the classroom.

No Bake-Bake Sale

What's a No-Bake Bake Sale? It is a no calorie, no shopping, no mixing, bake sale. Huh?

The Naugatuck Historical Society and Museum relies on the support from the community. The No-Bake Bake Sale is one of our three fundraising events for 2011. You will be contacted by one of our volunteers or Board of

Directors who will ask you to make a donation to the Naugatuck Historical Society in lieu of baking an item for a non-existent Bake Sale. All donations this year will go to the Society to help fund the operation of the Museum. Every donation counts, no matter how big or small. We appreciate your

kindness, your gift helps us to bring history alive for others.

If you are not contacted but would like to make a donation to the No Bake-Bake Sale please call or email the Museum 203 729 9039 or naugatuckhistory@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you

