

# Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, September 2018



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This summer was hot, humid and rainy which was good for lawns but not leaky roofs. Rain water continued to seep into the beleaguered Huguenot House attic but our tubs, basins and buckets strategically placed beneath the holes in the roof were successful in holding back the torrents. We received the excellent news in June of the \$7,500 grant approval from the 1772 Foundation of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Last year's \$5,000 grant from the SBM Charitable Foundation, fund raisers and donations have given us over \$15,000 toward the roof replacement project, meeting original cost estimates from 2017. I've decided to go with Steven Bielitz of the Glastonbury Restoration Co as the contractor, who can complete the project this year. However, there is a problem. The cost of cedar roof shingles has sky-rocketed. To make matters worse, due to the Trump Trade War, Canada where the shingles are made has placed retaliatory tariffs on imported lumber from the US. Cedar wood from Oregon and Washington is Canada's way of dealing with the 25% tariff imposed by the US for their steel and aluminum. Bottom line is the roof-replacement cost has now increased to over \$20,000. Steve Bielitz has found someone who is willing to donate a partial supply of shingles to the Historical Society that will help, but the cost will still exceed what we have in our reserve for the roof replacement. We may still need to find a generous benefactor to get us to the finish line.

Our museum buildings at Martin Park were open for eight consecutive Sunday afternoons during July and August. Once again our busiest time was on Connecticut Open House Day. On Saturday, June 9th we came prepared with a large contingent of Historical Society volunteers and we collected a lot of donations from appreciative visitors which made it all worthwhile. Similar to past autumns we are now planning some tour bus visits in October. We must have help from Historical Society volunteers to make this successful. Although subject to change, please note on your calendars the following dates: Sunday, October 21st and Sunday, October 28th. Afternoon times are still being worked out but on each date there may be multiple tour groups arriving.

The September 19th, 2018 Historical Society annual dinner meeting will again be held in the First Congregational Church, 837 Main Street at Church Corners. A delicious buffet style dinner by Becker's Catering will be served. The menu is the same as last year. Following our annual dinner, there will be a short business meeting that includes the election of officers and directors for the upcoming year and then we will have our September program. The newsletter includes a renewal notice for Historical Society membership in the September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019 year and a required reservation form for the annual dinner. You can save yourself some postage by returning both forms in one envelope with the payment. For anyone wanting to attend the program without joining us for dinner, there is no cost. Free parking is available in the back of the Church. I hope to see you all on Wednesday, September 19th.

*Craig Johnson, President*

## “CONNECTICUT CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMPS”

### Martin Podskoch's Topic at HSEH Annual Dinner

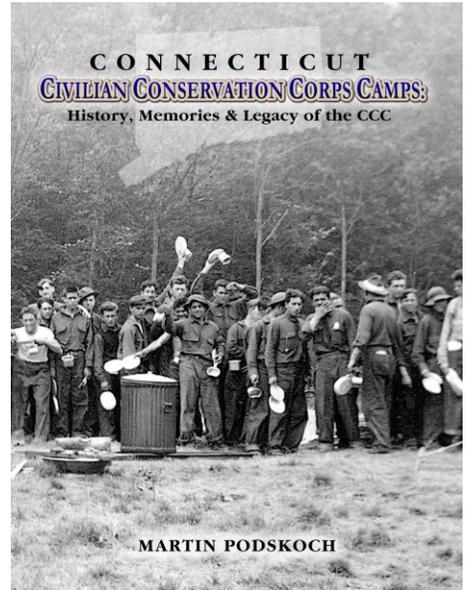
“At the Historical Society's Annual Dinner on September 19th, 2018, at the First Congregational Church, we will finally have the opportunity to hear local author and Historian, Martin Podskoch give his PowerPoint Presentation on his latest book, Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memories and Legacy. Its cover is seen on the next page. The CCC began March 31, 1933 under President

Franklin Roosevelt's 'New Deal' to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Great Depression. The US Army supervised camps throughout the 48 states consisting of 200 men each. Connecticut received 13 camps initially, set up in CT State Parks and Forests. The Army Government Dock in New London was the supply depot for the State. Within a year, eight additional camps were added, the closest being in Windsor, called the Experimental Station Land.

Men aged 18-25, including fathers on relief, enrolled for 6 months and worked a 40-hour week for the sum of \$30.00/month. The government sent most of their salary home to their families. Workers built trails, roads, campsites, fire towers, dams, stocked fish, planted millions of trees and raised telephone lines.

The CCC disbanded in 1942, due to the need for enlistees in World War II.

After the presentation, Marty will have all his books available for purchase and signing. He has several about the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains. The speaker's presentation will start immediately after a short business meeting at 7:00pm. The presentation is free and open to the public. "



*Bette Daraskevich, Program Chair*



Becker's Catering

**HSEH Annual Dinner Meeting**

**September 19th 2018**

**First Congregational Church East Hartford**

**White and Dark Meat Roasted Turkey**

**Baked Ham**

**Roasted Baby New Potatoes**

**Glazed Carrots**

**New England Apple Sausage Cranberry  
Stuffing**

**Tossed Salad with Italian Vinaigrette**

**Rolls with Butter**

**Bottled Water, Tea, Coffee**

**Pumpkin Pie with Fresh Whipped Cream**

**ANNUAL DINNER**

The **September 19, 2018** Historical Society Annual Dinner and Program is being held at the First Congregational Church, 837 Main Street in East Hartford.

The popular, traditional "all you can eat" buffet style dinner will be catered again by Matt Becker of Becker's Catering. The menu is on the left. Confirmation and payment for the dinner must be received by Saturday, **September 15, 2018** using the required reservation form enclosed in this newsletter. The cost will be \$20, the same for both members and guests of members. Doors to the lower level of the church will open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to attend only the program, can arrive after 7:30 p.m. There is ample free parking available behind the church. Please call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884 for more information or if you have any questions.

*Craig Johnson, President*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Historical Society of East Hartford Nominating Committee (Karen Johnson, Eileen Driscoll, Joyce Yoo) proposes the following slate of Officers and Directors for its 2018 – 2019 Executive Board:

President: Craig Johnson  
Vice President: Steven Strange  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Eileen Driscoll  
Treasurer: Joyce Yoo

Directors:

4 Year: Jeffrey Cummings  
3 Year: Ruth Shapleigh-Brown  
2 Year: Dan Russell  
1 Year: Karen Johnson

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on September 19th. According to Robert's Rules of Order, nominations from the floor will be accepted. We are grateful to Jeff Cummings to accept the 4-year term as a Director, in addition to being the Chair for the Committee for Recording and Organization of our Collections. We want to thank Steve Strange for accepting the Historical Society Vice President position. Also, we wish to thank Betty Russell for her many years of being a Director of the Historical Society. We wish again to thank all of the slate for their continued loyalty in serving the Historical Society.

## COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

<https://www.facebook.com/events/879147392270209/?ti=cl> talk and tour of American Veterans of the Revolution in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground with Ruthie; Main St Gates, Sept 8, 11am

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2132895623703618/?ti=cl> meet author Katherine Dimancescu and her research into her 17<sup>th</sup> c ancestor Capt Denison and his world of Pilgrims, King Philp's War, the Algonquian Language Bible and more; 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Christ, W Htfd, 12 S Main, Sept 28, 6pm *William Brown, Member*

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## SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM

**Reservation Must Be Received by September 15, 2018.**

**Tickets are \$20.00**

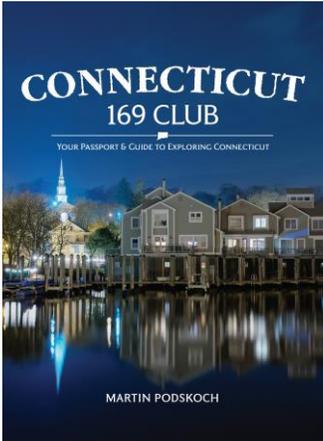
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make a check for the dinner reservation out to: **The Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc.**  
Mail check to: **Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc., Po Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166**

## BOOK PROJECTS



The Historical Society has participated in two book projects this year. One is a book authored by Marty Podskoch called the Connecticut 169 Club (cover left) which should be in print very soon if not already. I was asked to do the history and areas of interest in the town of East Hartford. All 169 towns in Connecticut are worth visiting and that's the book's primary purpose. The other book will be called Greater Hartford Memories and that should be out in December. The Historical Society and several other partner organizations participated with Pediment Publishing and *The Hartford Courant* on this picture book project. We had a number of photographs imaged from our own collection and also from the Raymond Library collection. *Craig Johnson*

### Historical Society of East Hartford

**Mail:** PO Box 380166, E Hartford, CT, 06138-0166

**Phone:** 860-528-0716

**Email:** hseh@hseh.org, webmaster@hseh.org

**Web site:** <http://www.hseh.org>

**Membership:** 860-290-1869, hseh@hseh.org  
indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,  
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

**Deadline Nov Newsletter – Oct 26, 2018**

**Clipart:** [:Civilian Conservation Corps](http://www.civiliansconservationcorps.com) from  
[clipartlogo.com](http://www.clipartlogo.com) (by Taylor Goddard)  
[https://www.clipartlogo.com/image/civilian-conservation-corps\\_128733.html](https://www.clipartlogo.com/image/civilian-conservation-corps_128733.html)



### Sept Dinner/Program

**Date:** Wed, Sept 19, 2018

**Doors Open:** 6:00pm

**Dinner:** 6:30pm

**Meal:** Becker's Catering

**Program:** "Connecticut Civilian Conservation Camps"

**Where:** 1<sup>st</sup> Cong Church,

**Address:** 837 Main St

**Fee:** Dinner & Program \$20

**Fee:** Program only, 7:30pm, no fee

**Info:** Craig, 860-568-2884

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES: SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 – AUGUST 31, 2019

**Annual memberships are now due; please mail them in or pay at the Annual Dinner.**

Once again it is time to renew our memberships. The Historical Society depends on your membership to keep doing our community projects, sharing our rich history, and keeping our historical buildings open.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL (mail default)** \_\_\_\_\_ **MAIL NEWS? Y\_\_N\_\_**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$15.00 / Individual** **\$20.00/One address**  
**\$10.00 / Student** **\$50.00/Patron** **\$250.00/Lifetime**

Make a check for membership out to: **The Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc. (HSEH)**

Mail check to: **Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc., Po Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166**