



By bringing history and culture to life, the Orleans Historical Society will inspire a shared sense of community and pride in the rich heritage of the Town of Orleans.

AUTUMN 2015

Postal Patron



CG36500 next to the USCG cutter James in Boston Harbor during the Commissioning ceremonies on August 8



Raffle winners Peter and Susan O'Meara (left) with Pat and Richard Ryder



Kids at the Museum



The Girl from Quanset, operetta



4th Grade History Day

Yes, I want my donation matched to save the CG36500!

My \$ _____ donation is enclosed. (Make checks payable to Orleans Historical Society)

Name _____

Street Address/P.O. Box _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Orleans Historical Society Member? Yes _____ No _____

Please mail to: **Orleans Historical Society, P.O. Box 353, Orleans MA 02653**

THANK YOU!

DESIGN PLANS ANNOUNCED BY ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR ADDITION TO 'CENTERPIECE' 1834 MEETING HOUSE

Design plans have been announced for adding much-needed space to the 1834 Meeting House on River Road, home of the Orleans Historical Society (OHS) and the centerpiece of its vision for a Heritage Center serving Town residents and visitors well into the future. The 24-by 30-foot addition on the northwest end of the Meeting House, mirroring the existing historic architecture and scale, will provide handicap access and restrooms, plus expanded preservation space for artifacts.



Artist concept of Meeting House addition (left) by Flat Hills Design

“This additional capacity is critical to our mission of bringing history and culture to life,” said OHS Board

OHS TAKING NEXT STEPS IN 'HERITAGE CENTER' PLAN

The Orleans Historical Society is pursuing the next steps in creating an expanded heritage center for residents and visitors, as reported in previous newsletters. The center would help protect historical buildings, and provide much-needed space for more cultural events and the display and preservation of artifacts and archives well into the future.

OHS has put the Sparrow property, located at 353 South Orleans Road, under contract with the hope of relocating portions of the historical house and barn to the Town-owned parking lot property next to the existing Meeting House. Separate negotiations are continuing with the Orleans Board of Selectmen on the sale or long-term lease of this property in exchange for the Sparrow land the Town wants for the surrounding Kenrick Woods Conservation Area.

All parties recognize the need for more time to address the series of important issues in these complex transactions. OHS' contract to acquire the Sparrow property has been extended to late September when OHS hopes to have reached an acceptable agreement with the Town that will then allow the acquisition to be completed.

Chair Mark Carron. “We are hosting a growing number of concerts, history talks and other events at the Meeting House, and we want them to be accessible to everyone. With more preservation room we will be able to accept all artifacts and archives entrusted to us, rather than having to turn some away. Each time that happens, part of the Town's rich heritage is lost.”

The bi-level addition, plus basement, will total 1,650 square feet – all climate-controlled for temperature and humidity. The first floor will contain two American Disabilities Act-compliant restrooms and an entrance area, as well as space for tables, chairs and other equipment when not in use. Non-public areas on the second floor and in the basement will create much-needed workspace for OHS staff and volunteers, plus expanded preservation room. The addition will connect to existing spaces on the first and second levels with minimal interior alterations. Little disruption to the OHS schedule of events at the Meeting House is expected during construction.

Also included in this project will be a new kitchenette in the Meeting House, outside ramps and walkways and, eventually, relocation of the Hurd Chapel on the OHS property. A full foundation and basement will be built, and the chapel will be lifted onto it and rotated to face the Meeting House just northwest of its current location. This will result in another 800 square feet of functional space on two levels, both with exterior access, for special exhibits, seasonal activities and youth programs.

“Cost for the entire project is an estimated \$750,000, which will come from grants and private donations,” Carron said. “We look forward to providing more project details and 3-D models for review by OHS members during our Annual Meeting in November, after which we will begin our fundraising efforts.”

Chairman's Letter

Autumn 2015

Board of Directors 2015

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Mark Carron

Vice-Chair
Beverly Fuller

Treasurer
OPEN

Secretary
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alphabetically

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Richard Ryder

Bonnie Snow

Jay Stradal

Bobbie Thomsen

Museum Director
Tamsen Cornell

Immediate Past President
Hank Ritchie

I've heard it, and maybe you have, too. The Orleans Historical Society is "moving too fast, too soon" with its Heritage Center concept, taking the CG36500 on Tours and restructuring the responsibilities of the Board and staff.

There is a lot going on and, yes, it's daunting for some -- but it's also exciting for most. My position, and that of a majority of the Board, is that you can't move forward by sitting on your laurels. You must look at opportunities when they come, and not be afraid of change. You act not recklessly, but by taking calculated risks based on facts, and guided by a clear vision for the future.

We are continuing our negotiations with the Town of Orleans to obtain a 99-year lease on the property next to our Meeting House, and for the purchase of the Sparrow property, as discussed in our previous newsletter. The timing of this may not be perfect for us, but the opportunity is **NOW**. Simultaneously, the board has approved the initial design concepts for an addition to the Meeting House. We plan to unveil details of these first steps in the Heritage Center plan at our Annual Meeting in November, so join us and learn the facts about this exciting news.

I hope you saw the great article in the August 4 edition of *The Boston Globe*, which featured our CG36500! In addition, two of our Board members were interviewed by Cape Cod Broadcasting (that aired August 9) about the history and ongoing preservation of the lifeboat. Links to the article and the broadcast are on our website, OrleansHistoricalSociety.org. As a result, we are receiving a number of inquiries and donations (see matching grant story on the next page). Interest in the CG36500 is peaking as we get closer to the Disney movie release in January, and we're looking at possibly taking the lifeboat on a limited Tour of key cities working with the U.S. Coast Guard. The late-year timing is not great, but the opportunity for OHS publicity and preservation fundraising is **NOW**.

Also, the board has been reviewing our internal processes to ensure we have a strong infrastructure moving forward. Priority has been given to enhancing our financial reporting and budgeting. We have hired a professional CPA firm to assist us in our finances, and a law firm to protect OHS interests in real estate negotiations. These advisors are in addition to the expertise we have on our Board including several bankers, a real estate developer, a corporate marketing executive, a risk management officer and several historians.

In addition, we've taken a hard look at our organization. At the Board level, we have re-structured our responsibilities into six committees: Building and Grounds, Communications, Finance and Investments, Historic Preservation and Culture, Membership and Executive (comprised of the other committee chairs and me). This will promote more active involvement and the sharing of ideas, making our monthly meetings more action-oriented and strategic.

Meanwhile, advertisements for an Executive Director position have run in local papers and museum association websites. We want to see if an individual with experience in non-profit management, fund-raising, strategic planning and promotion is available in our region. Our Museum Director, Tamsen Cornell, will continue to manage the important day-to-day operations of the Meeting House on a part-time basis.

Some of these Heritage Center, CG36500 and restructuring plans may not work out. But if so, it will be because the Board decided, after reviewing all the facts and talking with our advisors, that the plans no longer made sense for OHS. It will not be because we were afraid to try.

As always, thanks for allowing me to be the OHS Chairman,
Mark E. Carron

Autumn Calendar 2015

All events at OHS Meeting House unless stated otherwise. Event discounts for members!

September

1 at 7:30 pm
Talk - Jim Coogan and Jack Sheedy
Cape Cod Collected - \$5 door

5 at 1:00 and 2:00 pm
Talk & Tour - CG36500
At Rock Harbor, Orleans

6 at 1:00 and 2:00 pm
Talk & Tour - CG36500
At Rock Harbor, Orleans

11 at 10:00 am
Bonnie Snow's Historic Main Street Walk
Start at Museum

TBA at 8:30 am -2:00 pm
Heritage Day, Orleans 5th Grade

20 at 11:00, 12:30 & 2:30
Celebrate Our Waters
Orleans Pond Coalition
3 speakers!

October

3 at 3:00 pm
Concert - Daniel del Pino, pianist - \$20

6 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday Histories
Roland Mayo - \$5 door

13 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday Histories
Fred Dunford - \$5 door

17 at 7:30 pm
Concert - Kate Lansdale, violin and Max Levinson, piano - \$20

20 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday Histories
William Quinn - \$5 door

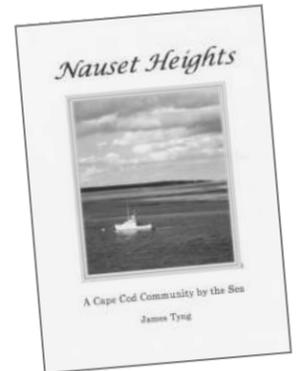
24 at 4:00 pm
Fundraiser - Museum Wine Tasting

25 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday Histories
Robert Vickrey - \$5 door

30 at 6:30 pm
Kids at the Museum
Film - A Nightmare Before Christmas
Costume prizes! - \$7 door

November

7 at 12:00 - 2:30 pm
OHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon
James Tyng, guest speaker



20 at 7:00 pm
Concert - Bart Weisman Klezmer Swing Group - \$20

21 at 4:00 pm
Fundraiser - Museum Wine Tasting

THANKS FOR A GREAT SUMMER!

Congratulations to Fran Lautenberger, Sue Kelly and the cast of four terrific performances of *The Girl from Quanset*, a 1908 operetta score pulled from our 'Camps' archive collection. Ten former "Quanset girls" attended the shows! Additional performances are planned for next Spring or Summer. (Photo pg. 6)

Accolades and thanks also to Dianne Greaney and Stasia Croteau for our popular new "Kids at the Museum" program (Photo pg. 6), to Bonnie Snow for her historical Cemetery and Main Street Walks, Peter Brown for directing the Tuesday evening Talks, and all our splendid docents who cheerfully greeted our visitors all summer.

In addition to several wonderful donations, the Museum received a dozen Vernon Smith batiks to the Collection. Also, a CCADA grant supported restoration of the ship portrait "Phenix," which also received expert framing donated by Bill and CY Treene. A CPA grant supported Archivist Teresa Lamperti in finishing the Documents and Found items Project. Look for our main floor 'Research Alcove' coming soon!

Thanks to all who organized, contributed to, and/or attended these events and activities. It was a great summer at the Museum!

HAVE YOUR CG36500 DONATIONS MATCHED DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR!

A generous donor has challenged all others to help with CG36500 repairs and preservation by offering to match, dollar for dollar, all contributions up to \$5,000 between now and October 15.

The anonymous donor in the Boston area saw the recent article in *The Boston Globe* [go to OrleansHistoricalSociety.org for link], and asked that his money be used to urge others to assure the CG36500 is repaired and preserved well into the future. The iconic lifeboat, famous for its rescue of 32 crew members from the broken tanker *Pendleton* during a raging winter storm in 1952, faces \$9,000 in unexpected repairs and other ongoing maintenance costs.

Donations to the "Save the CG36500 Fund" may be made by credit card via the OHS Website (above), or by mail using the form on page 6. Please write "Save the CG36500 Fund" on your check to ensure the matching donation.

CG36500 MAKES WAVES IN BOSTON

"Trip-of-a-lifetime" highlights as told by Dick Ryder, CG36500 coxswain

Fair skies and light winds set the stage for a beautiful trip to Boston by the CG36500 lifeboat on August 7. Those with me on board were Susan and Peter O'Meara, winners of the Orleans Historical Society-sponsored "Save the CG36500" Raffle, and crew members Mark Perni and John Laurino. Since the CG36500 was built for ruggedness and stability, not speed, it took us nearly eight hours to make the Cape Cod Bay crossing. We took turns "on watch" at the helm and our new satellite-based navigation system, purchased with a grant from the Boston Marine Society, worked flawlessly.

Upon arrival, we docked at the Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina near the lightship *Nantucket*, on which CG36500 coxswain Bernie Webber had served later in his career. We had been invited to participate in National Lighthouse Day festivities including the re-lighting of the *Nantucket's* powerful beacon that had been dark for 40 years. The O'Mearas spent the night onboard the lightship as part of their Raffle prize.

The next morning, we motored across the harbor to Coast Guard Base Boston for the commissioning of the new Cutter *Joshua James*. It was fitting that the CG36500 as a "gold medal" boat should honor the new ship's namesake, who was a gold-medal recipient himself. The Coast Guard obviously agreed by including us. The astonishing thing was that, as we docked next to the 418-foot ship, her crew was clamoring to take pictures of us! Clearly the fame of the CG36500 and her role in the *Pendleton* rescue is widespread.

Following the invitation-only commissioning ceremony, several active and retired Coast Guard senior officers boarded the CG36500 for a short tour around the harbor.

On Sunday, we were scheduled to make our return trip across the bay to Orleans, but the weather was blustering from the northeast. As soon as we left Boston harbor we started to take on waves that were breaking over our bow, which would have made for a slower and more dangerous crossing. So we changed course and headed down along the South Shore coastline. The waves were now off our beam and the boat was really rockin' and rollin'.



CG36500 appears tiny as the bow of USCG JAMES looms in front.

As the afternoon wore on, I noticed that there were no lobster boats out on the water. Lobster catchers never take a day off unless sea conditions are really bad, I thought to myself. It was then we decided to make port for Plymouth. Besides, when it's that rough, you can't rest anything on the engine block. No hot coffee and no warm food make a trip feel even longer.

The windy weather continued through the following day, and some of our guests and crew returned home by other means. It wasn't until late Tuesday morning that we returned safely to Rock Harbor – just ahead of a nasty line of thunderstorms. But it was all worthwhile, and the CG36500 performed very well. As long as there is fuel in the tank, her engine just hums right along!

Music at the Museum

This fall, OHS is pleased to offer three Music at the Museum concerts: the noted Spanish pianist Daniel del Pino; violinist Katie Lansdale with pianist Max Levinson; and the Bart Weisman Klezmer Swing group. Several more concerts are planned for our winter/spring series.

Anyone interested in participating in sponsorship of our upcoming concerts should contact me at the OHS office (508-240-1329).

Keeping our fine piano in top performing condition requires varying degrees of expense. Currently, the instrument needs a new set of hammers and a major re-regulation. While this kind of expense occurs infrequently, it is now time for this work to be done. The estimated cost is \$3,000.

Any contributions to our maintenance fund would be most welcome, and most gratefully received.

Ken Fearn
Music Director

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

To be successful, OHS needs volunteers – people who can help us make our Heritage Center vision come alive! Under our new Board committee structure (see the Chairman’s message, p.2), each chair is encouraged to reach outside the board for committee members. So if you are good at construction and want to be involved developing our Heritage Center plans, or love history and want to help us save historic artifacts, or have a financial mind and can help us manage our budget – please give us a call (508-240-1329). WE NEED YOUR IDEAS AND EXPERTISE!

2015 Fall Program Schedule

All tickets are \$20 (discounts for OHS members), and may be purchased in advance at the Meeting House or at the door.

Daniel del Pino, piano

Saturday, October 3rd, 3 pm

Sponsored by the Russell-Davidson Foundation

Program:

Mendelssohn: *Prelude and Fugue No. 1 in E Minor*

Mendelssohn: *Five Songs Without Words*

Franck: *Prelude, Choral and Fugue*

Chopin: *Twelve Etudes Op. 10*

Daniel del Pino is one of the leading Spanish concert pianists on the international scene. He has performed on all five continents, and his music has been heard in the most prestigious venues across Europe.



Katie Lansdale, violin; Max Levinson, piano

Saturday, October 17th, 7 pm

Sponsored by the Russell-Davidson Foundation

Program:

"Dance by the Light of the Moon": Nocturnes and Dances for Violin and Piano.

Works by Tchaikovsky, Copland, Chopin, Britten, Szymanowski, Stravinsky.

Katie Lansdale, a highly accomplished soloist, chamber musician and teacher, performs actively both in America and Europe. She is currently principal artist teacher on the faculty of the Hartt School of the University of Hartford

Max Levinson has appeared as a soloist and has performed in chamber music concerts throughout the U.S. and Europe. He currently teaches at the New England and the Boston Conservatories.



Bart Weisman Klezmer

Swing Group

Friday, November 20th, 7 pm

The Bart Weisman Klezmer Swing Group has performed Klezmer (also known as Jewish Jazz) and Swing

(Jazz from the 30's & 40's) music at private events and concerts across Cape Cod. They have opened for the Boston Pops and appeared with the Cape Symphony. The group features Larry Chaplan (Cape Symphony) on violin, Leslie Boyle on vocals, Alan Clinger on guitar, Ron Ormsby on bass, and Bart Weisman on drums.

