70th Anniversary Hurricane Program a Big Hit

Program attendees gather for the Preservation Society’s hurricane anniversary program

Our Storm of the Century, a 70th anniversary program about the Hurricane of 1938 was a great success. Greater than 120 people, including approximately 20 people who lived through the hurricane, attended this rousing event. Preservation Society Museum Director Jean MacIntyre presented slides of Barrington before the storm as well as many devastating hurricane images. Several people gave harrowing accounts of September 21, 1938, followed by a segment of the WSBE-TV documentary entitled “Wake of ’38” which is available through the public library system.

After the program, several hurricane survivors provided the Preservation Society with their memories of that day. Paul Darling was eight years old in September 1938 and lived on County Road in Barrington. He states, “When the river level rose and the salty water poured across County Road and into our low land, we realized that a storm of unusual severity was upon us …Our yard had suddenly become an extension of Barrington River.” When Paul’s father, W. Arthur Darling, returned from work in Providence, Paul clearly remembers his mother, Mary, lifting the center window on their porch to let him put a leg through and enter. If she had opened the front door, it would have blown off its hinges. Paul and a young friend watched, laughing aloud, as the shingles on the rental cottage next door flapped wildly up and down, like the keys of a player piano gone mad!

The next morning, fishes were flipping up and down in their yard in the receding (continued on page 3)

The Miracle Worker Performance at 2nd Story Theatre to Benefit Barrington Preservation Society

Calling all theatre lovers. You can easily help raise funds for BPS by attending the Wednesday, November 19 Family Night performance of The Miracle Worker at 2nd Story Theatre. Whether or not you have experienced this renowned theatre before, don’t miss this chance to support BPS and see a great show.

The performance is at 8:00 p.m. and tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children under 18, with limited seating available. The upstairs bar will be open to purchase beer, wine, soft drinks and cookies.

The well-known story of The Miracle Worker is about Annie Sullivan. Sullivan, almost blind herself, takes on the daunting position in the Keller household to reach their young daughter Helen, left blind and deaf from scarlet fever. With a dynamic gift for teaching, Annie breaks through Helen's darkness, leading her to a world of light. It's William Gibson's robust story of love, faith, and dedication.
Be sure to call Board member Phyllis Fragola at 245-1054 for your reservation. Don’t miss this opportunity to see a great play and help BPS at the same time.

**Letter from the President**

An important mission of the Barrington Preservation Society is to preserve and share memories close to home. The Society does not simply display objects. It tries to relay the experiences behind them. The latest program, Our Storm of the Century, brought home the significance of “doing” oral history. In addition to listening to various personal experiences about the hurricane of 1938, the museum staff had the privilege of reviewing personal photo albums, high school yearbooks, reunion essays, and memoirs.

Memoir-writing is a terrific way of relaying unique interactions about family, neighbors, our town and society. It is precisely these personal perspectives and details that make the “telling of the past” interesting. While memoirs educate, writers may also gain the satisfaction of knowing that others will hear their stories.

Thankfully, we have a Museum which serves as a repository for past Barrington experiences. It is a place where your voices will ultimately be heard and preserved. We invite you to think of the Society as your encouragement, motivation and place to share your Barrington memories.

Nancy R. Peck, President

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**Ott Grant Launches Glass Negative Project**

Over the years, the Preservation Society has had the good fortune of accumulating a collection of glass negatives dating from 1860 – 1900. At a time when photography was still a phenomenon and done by few, some stunning moments in Barrington time were captured.

In order to bring this collection into an even safer status for research use and to enable options for reproduction, an effort is being made to digitize these images. The glass negatives’ unusual size and formats require some scanning expertise and scanner adaptation. An Ott Foundation grant was made to BPS this year and has allowed for the launch of this project. In addition to the scanning, the work also involves identifying, labeling, inventory, archival storage supply, and their incorporation into a database.

The collection contains some of the oldest surviving photographs of Barrington, some of which are especially vivid and unique. The Society looks forward to sharing these images with you in the future.

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**Endowment Fund Donor Request**

In the past six months, the Endowment Fund has received generous gifts from the Estate of Carol Horrocks, the CVS Corporation and individuals. We still have a long way to go and we will gratefully accept your tax deductible contributions. Simply write a check payable to the Barrington Preservation Society with “Endowment Fund” on the memo line, and send to the Treasurer, Barrington Preservation Society, P.O. Box 178. If you have any questions, please contact Van Edwards at 245-9719.
Membership Drive Ongoing

A n organization, especially a volunteer
organization, is only as good as its
membership.

The Board of Directors of Barrington Preservation
Society initiated a membership drive in 2008 that
will carry into next year when the annual
membership renewal solicitation is conducted.
Membership fees from our 124 members have
been barely sufficient to enable us to fund our
programs and meet the obligations of maintaining
the BPS Museum.

A major Museum project, in the proposal stage, is
the inventory and indexing of all Museum assets.
This is a costly program which would be
accelerated with additional funding. Please
consider being part of this major project.

In addition, increased membership means building
a larger pool of volunteers to assist in conducting
our programs. Why not consider becoming a BPS
volunteer?

Hurricane article continued from page 1
puddles of river water. Other Darling property on
Annawamscott Road had been reduced to
unrecognizable splintered rubble. Timbers from all
the houses had fallen into their foundations. The
scene was one of universal destruction as far as
the eye could see.

Lloyd Broomhead was 12 on September 21, 1938
and lived on Alfred Drown Road. His brother told
him to go to Allin’s Cove to pump out their 21-
foot gaff rigged sloop which was full of water.
Through pouring rain he was completely wet, but
kept pulling their boat higher and higher as the
water rose, and thought he would be a hero if he
got it high enough so that it would be set for the
winter. Things floated by him, like a friend’s sail,
which he was tempted to swim out and grab, but
realized he’d drown if he tried. He kept pulling the
boat higher and was waist deep in water when his
older brother showed up and exclaimed, “What are
you doing?! Go home and take a bath.” He
obliged, and then went back to the boat to see
what was happening, only to see the water had
risen another 15-18 feet closer to their home. That
sloop survived the 1938 hurricane but succumbed
in Hurricane Carol in 1954.

Gloria Barnes McCagney was 12 years old on that
day and lived on Pleasant Street in the Alfred
Drown neighborhood. From a second floor
window of her house, she recalls seeing the huge
tidal wave come up and over Bay Spring point,
then saw the wave recede, only to see a second
huge wave rise up and over the point, carrying
homes with it. From that same vantage point, she
also could see Willow Way, along the waterfront,
and watched those summer houses collapsing. One
house at the end was better built and stayed up the
longest. But all of the wood from the surrounding
fallen cottages continuously battered this one
house until it finally fell too. In the morning, she
was amazed to see only a thin stream in the
Providence River that was free of debris, such as
stoves, houses, roofs, and refrigerators.
“Everything under the sun littered the river,” she
said, “That’s when we realized how bad this thing
was.”

The Barrington Preservation Society is always
open to hear other eventual stories about this
locale. Please contact us with your story.
Holiday Traditions in the Pioneer Valley:
Historic Deerfield, Yankee Candle & Bright Lights

The Barrington Community School and Barrington Preservation Society have collaborated to bring you an excursion to Massachusetts’ Pioneer Valley on December 3. An orientation program will introduce you to Historic Deerfield before the group tours the Williams House, a local historic home. A visit to the Flynt Center of Early American Life, a museum full of nationally-acclaimed decorative arts and exhibits related to early American furniture, clothing and textiles follows. A buffet luncheon at the 1884 Deerfield Inn precedes a visit to the Yankee Candle Company. In the late afternoon, the group will drive through Springfield’s historic Forest Park, which will be lit up with more than 300,000 lights for the “Bright Lights” event. The fee for this program is $75. For more information, or to register for this event, contact the Community School at 245-0432 or barrcomm@bcs.necoxmail.com.

Interested in plaquing your home? Call BPS at 289-0802

Barrington Preservation Society
P.O. Box 178
Barrington, RI 02806

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