



Wethersfield Historical Society
150 Main Street
Wethersfield CT 06109
Website: <http://www.wethhist.org>
E-mail: society@wethhist.org

Non-Profit Organization

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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS



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- June 13 **"Welcome Home" House Tour**, 10-4. Tour Central is Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. Boutique is at the Silas Robbins Carriage House.
-
- June 18, 20 **Walk Around Historic Wethersfield**. Thursday, 6/18, 6-7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 6/20, 10-11:30 a.m. \$5 for adults, free to members and children under 16. Meet in Front of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center.
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- June 19 **Colonial Revival Walk**, 1-2:30 p.m. \$5., members free. Meet in front of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center.
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- June 30 **Carillon Concert** on grounds at First Church, 7:00 p.m. Part of the 375th anniversary celebration.
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- July 14 **Keeney Kooler Concert**, 6:30 p.m. Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters. On the grounds of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center.
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- July 21 **Keeney Kooler Concert**, 6:30 p.m Johnny Prytko and The Good Times Band
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- July 28 **Keeney Kooler Concert**, 6:30 p.m. Hot Cat Jazz Band
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- July 25 **History Day for Families**, 10-4. Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons. Military and civilian life demonstrations. Keeney Memorial Cultural Center.
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- July 27-31 **Keeney Kids Summer History Camp**, 8:30-1:00 daily, for Grades 1-6. August only, Grade 1-8.
Aug. 3-7 Keeney Memorial Cultural Center.

ALMANAC



THE WETHERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ■ VOLUME 35 ■ NUMBER 2 ■ SUMMER 2009

HOUSE TOUR IS HERE!

Major Event Set for June 13th

“Welcome Home,” Wethersfield Historical Society’s upcoming house tour on Saturday, June 13, from 10am-4pm, will feature eight unique private homes and two Bed and Breakfasts. This popular fundraiser, one of the events celebrating the town’s 375th anniversary, will offer something for every taste, whether it be an elegant 18th century Colonial, an exquisitely restored Victorian mansion, a 1939 Tudor Revival or a modern home with a magnificently updated kitchen. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage serves as the event’s Corporate Sponsor.



LOIS CLARKE PHOTO

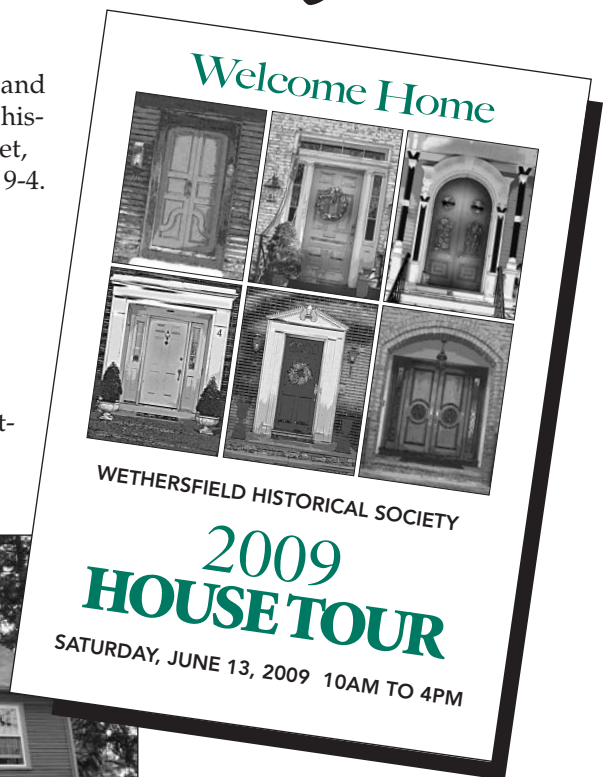
Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 on tour day and may be purchased by mail or in person at the historical society’s headquarters at 150 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109, open Tuesday-Friday, 9-4. Additionally, tickets may be purchased at the

Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street, (open Monday-Saturday, 10-4, Sunday, 1-4) and at Coldwell Banker, located at 1331 Silas Deane Highway. On tour day, they will be available at Tour Central at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street, Wethersfield.

Among the private homes on tour, two are historic properties located in Old Wethersfield. One is a house built in 1735 by Ezra Webb, which has a 1978 addition off the kitchen. The other is the Abraham Crane House, built in 1770, whose keeping room features wooden floors, built-in cupboards and a wood-beamed ceiling. Also located in Old Wethersfield are the two Bed and Breakfasts on the tour. The stately Chester Bulkley House, at 184 Main Street, was built in 1830 and is decorated with many lovely



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Above left: 1939 Tudor Revival
Left: Abraham Crane House

LOIS CLARKE PHOTO

FORECAST

East or West, Home is Best

Spring has finally sprung, and I'm sure everyone, like me, is enjoying the absence of ice and snow – not to mention the gorgeous flowers and trees in bloom! Wethersfield is such a beautiful town and we are all lucky to be living here. The current economic climate has many families forgoing traditional vacations spent far away from home in favor of "staycations" – leisure time spent enjoying activities close to home. We could not be living in a better place! Wethersfield Historical Society has a full roster of low-cost or free events planned for the summer that will help town residents, friends and visitors enjoy our community to the fullest.

Kicking off the summer season and the celebration of the town's 375th anniversary, we will be enjoying a fabulous House Tour on June 13th – the first in five years! We have eight beautiful private homes and two Bread and Breakfasts around town participating in this exciting event. Of course, Wethersfield is known for its stately historic homes, but there are also magnificent contemporary homes in our community – this tour will encompass all centuries of the town's history. Tickets will be \$25 in advance, \$30 on the day of the event. The elegant Patron party is \$75, which includes a ticket for the tour.

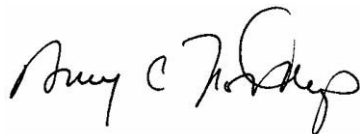
New this summer is the Wethersfield Farmer's Market, held on the lawn of the Keeney Center every Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. Local producers will be selling a variety of fruit, vegetables, eggs, artisan breads and cheeses and other natural products.

Another new offering this summer will be our History Day for Families on July 25th that will feature Revolutionary War reenactors from the Second Continental Light Dragoons, Sheldon's Horse. The dragoons and their horses will be encamped at the Keeney Center. They will patrol the town and discuss Wethersfield's history as the birthplace of the U.S. Cavalry and the center for the recruitment and training of dragoons during the Revolutionary War. This event is offered free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Keeney Trust at The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

The Hurlbut-Dunham House and Cove Warehouse are once again open for the season (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.) Our annual free outdoor summer concert series "Keeney Coolers" will be back in July – bring a picnic and enjoy some wonderful performances. Our weeklong Summer Keeney Kids program will also return in July and August with learning and fun for 1st through 8th graders. This year will fill up fast, so register soon! Finally, we are looking forward to this summer's installation at the Keeney of a photo exhibit celebrating the town's 375th Anniversary and complementing our new book. Don't miss it!

All of the wonderful events planned for this summer could not take place without the hard work of our many dedicated volunteers and the financial support of our members and friends. Please help us maintain and grow that vital support – come out and enjoy our events and encourage your friends, neighbors and co-workers to come with you. If you don't currently volunteer for the society, contact the office and find out about all the different opportunities available. WHS volunteers meet some great people and learn a little, too – all while helping the society accomplish its mission of preserving Wethersfield's history and culture to inspire people today and tomorrow. I look forward to seeing you this summer while we enjoy all our community has to offer.

With all best wishes,



Amy C. Northrop
Director

WETHERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The ALMANAC is a publication of
Wethersfield Historical Society,
a 501(c)3, non-profit organization chartered in 1932.

Wethersfield Historical Society:
Preserving Wethersfield's history and culture
to inspire people today and tomorrow.

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150 Main Street
Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109
860. 529.7656
email: society@wethhist.org
Web: www.wethhist.org



Ross Tucker and The Hot Cat Jazz Band



Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters

KEENEY KOOLER CONCERTS RETURN IN JULY Free Outdoor Events Help Beat the Heat

With summer just a few weeks away, what better way to beat the summer's heat than to cool off with free evening concerts? Just in time, the Keeney Kooler Outdoor Concert Series returns in July for three FREE events for the whole family. Held on the front lawn of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street, the Keeney Koolers will begin at 6:30p.m. the last three Tuesdays in July. Everyone is invited to bring their lawn chairs, blankets, snacks and beverages (even pets are welcome!) to enjoy the fun. Thanks to our good friends at the Town of Wethersfield, each musical guest is featured on the elevated sound stage known as the ShowMobile, to be seen and heard by all.

First up, on Tuesday, **July 14** will be **Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters**, a return performer to the Concert Series. Amy's group features a non-traditional and unique blend of folk, western and bluegrass Americana.

Prepare to roll out the barrel! On **Tuesday, July 21**, Wethersfield hosts the polka sounds of **Johnny Prytko and the Good Times Band** as they perform a variety of popular favorite tunes with a mixture of Polish, Slovenian, French and German music. Get ready to dance!



The series closes with the very popular stylings of **Ross Tucker and The Hot Cat Jazz Band on July 28**. The Hot Cats are known for their extensive repertoire featuring Dixieland, Swing and Big Band.

All concerts are rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be moved into the spacious Keeney Hall. For information, please contact the society offices at 860.529.7656. Keeney Koolers are sponsored by Wethersfield Historical Society with support from the Keeney Trust at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

MORE WETHERSFIELD SUMMER CONCERTS

In conjunction with Wethersfield's 375th Anniversary and in complement to Keeney Koolers, a special free concert will be held at First Church of Christ, 250 Main Street. This free Carillon Concert of patriotic music emanating from the spire of First Church will be held on Tuesday, June 30th at 7pm. Music-lovers are invited to bring their lawn chairs and sit on the First Church lawns as they enjoy the music provided by David Spicer. Printed programs and special requests will be part of the evening's entertainment. For more information, please contact the staff of First Church directly, 860.529.1575.

WETHERSFIELD FARMERS' MARKET

Keeney Center Hosts Weekly Market Every Thursday

The Keeney Memorial Cultural Center will be the site of the new Wethersfield Farmers' Market. Beginning on May 28th and running through the end of October, the Market will be held every Thursday evening from 4 – 7p.m. on the south side of the Keeney lawn, rain or shine. Working with the Town of Wethersfield and the Economic Development and Improvement Committee, the society is part of the Farmers' Market team that will offer organic produce, honey, artisan breads, soaps and other agriculturally-based products. To be part of the fun (or to promote your market-based products or offer business support), please contact Market Master Jenna DeLay, Wethersfield.farmersmarket@gmail.com See you there!



WANTED – MORE VOLUNTEERS

Would you like a very part-time activity where you can set your own schedule, meet interesting people and do meaningful jobs? Wethersfield Historical Society has the perfect volunteer position for you!

Volunteers are needed at the following sites:

- **Keeney Memorial**, to greet visitors, handle admissions and shop sales, answer the phone and take messages. Two three hour shifts a month would be ideal.
- **Hurlbut-Dunham House**, to greet and lead tours of this elegant brick home located next to Keeney Memorial. Open weekends, May 16 to mid-October. Training is provided.
- **Cove Warehouse**, to welcome visitors to this building that has a maritime exhibit. Open weekends, May 21 to mid-October. Training is provided.

If you are interested in learning about volunteering at any of these properties, please call Volunteer Coordinator Roberta Simpson, at 860.529.7161, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE SMILING?

Because They Volunteer for Wethersfield Historical Society!



At the elegant Hurlbut-Dunham House, trained guides welcome visitors and lead tours of this beautiful former home of the socially prominent Jane and Howard Dunham. Please join them as they guide their way through rooms of fine furnishings, tasteful decorative arts and the restored 1930s kitchen. At a recent gathering of guides, many shared the same opinion about why they volunteer, "I just love this house; I pretend that it is my own!"



At the venerable Cove Warehouse, the society houses its maritime museum, where trained guides welcome visitors and tell them about Wethersfield's role in shipbuilding, privateering and all manner of the maritime trades. Join our crew of "Wharf Rats" for a rollicking good time!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

From Wethersfield: **Joanne Mueller-London, Danielle Johnson**
From Elsewhere: **Grace Graham Metros, South Carolina**

"KEENEY KIDS" SUMMER HISTORY PROGRAMS

Children will learn-by-doing that history is fun!

SCENES FROM APRIL VACATION'S "KEENEY KIDS"



For snack, the older class baked Civil War-era hard-tack, a hearty biscuit that traveled well.

Allison Appel models the lean-to built by her class on "Civil War Day"



Rachel Caruk and Jonathan Caraballo examine copies of vintage photographs as they identify changes in architecture on "Photography Day."

"Keeney Kids" explore Wethersfield history through historical activities, tours, stories and games at the Wethersfield Museum at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center and surrounding historic sites. For more information, please contact Mary Pat Knowlton, Education Coordinator, 860.529.7656 or marypat.knowlton@wethhist.org

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31, 2009

Monday, August 3 through Friday, August 7, 2009

"Young Apprentices" Entering Grades 1-3

Monday	Neighbors-Then and Now
Tuesday	Arrrgh! Pirate Day
Wednesday	Picture Perfect
Thursday	Toot, Toot! Transportation
Friday	Green Spaces, Fun Places

"Journey Men and Women" Entering Grades 4-6

Monday	Lost! Mapping Your Adventures
Tuesday	Food, Glorious Food!
Wednesday	Tools of the Trade
Thursday	Wethersfield Goes West
Friday	Batter Up! Old Time Sports

One Week Only: August 3-7, 2009

"CSI: Wethersfield" Entering Grades 7-8

Monday	Crime Scene Investigation: Detectives
Tuesday	Eyewitness Accounts: Wethersfield Raid
Wednesday	Gathering Evidence: Murder!
Thursday	Scene of the Crime: Prisoner of War
Friday	Law & Order: Trial by Jury

Fee:

Whole Week: \$80.00; \$75.00 for society members

1 Day: \$20.00; \$15.00 for society members

KEENEY HISTORY DAY FOR FAMILIES

Revolution-Era Cavalry Unit Rides Into Town on July 25th

Wethersfield Historical Society presents a fun day of living history at this year's Keeney History Day for Families on Saturday, July 25, 2009 from 10a.m. to 4p.m. Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons, a re-established military unit, will demonstrate Colonial Period military and civilian life while tying Wethersfield's history to the Dragoons and their role in the American Revolution. Join us for these free fun family activities: grooming and saddling of horses, period weapons and marching drills, Crossed Sabers demonstration, mounted Dragoons on patrol in the town and much more! The events will take place on the grounds of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street. Keeney History Day for Families is supported by a grant from the Keeney Trust at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. For more information contact Education Coordinator Mary Pat Knowlton, 860.529.7656.



Commander Sal Tarantino of Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons rides his dashing horse, Prince, into the fray.



“TASTE OF WETHERSFIELD” BENEFIT FUN FOR ALL

The fourth annual “Taste of Wethersfield” Benefit lived up to its reputation as the social event of the season this April. With more than 20 vendors of fine food and spirits, the event welcomed nearly 300 people for fun, friendship and fundraising. With music of the Cool Cats Jazz Band on one floor, a hoppin’ juke box on another and a lively Silent Auction going all night long, the entertainment was continuous. PLUS, this year the “Tap Room” featured a live TV broadcast of the UCONN game – something for everybody! Mark your calendars for “Taste V” on April 10, 2010!

Lisa Brisson
Wethersfield Life photos



ANNUAL MEETING

Society Thanks Outgoing Board Members; Elects New Officers

At the society’s Annual Dinner Meeting on May 19th, more than 90 members gathered to review its annual business, share “state of the society” reports and elect new members to its Boards. President Dorene Ciarcia presided over the evening’s agenda, acknowledging the newest members to the organization’s legacy society, The Adventurers’ Circle, Lee and Anne Kuckro. Director Amy Northrop then presented her Annual Report about the society’s many activities and programs over the last 12 months, addressing the warm welcome she has received in her first few months in Wethersfield. Then President Ciarcia provided her report as a “stewardship update” to the many calls to action that she is pleased that the membership has followed through with over the past year. The membership elected John Adamian, Delphine Farrelly, Richard Peplau and Sarah Wood to the Governing Board as well as Sey Adil, Lyle Fulton and Dorcas McHugh one new and two renewing members to its Advisory Board.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS

At a brief Governing Board meeting following the Annual Meeting, the Board welcomed its new member, John Adamian, and elected its officers. From left: Director Amy Northrop; President Dorene Ciarcia; Governing Board member John Adamian; Treasurer Sheila Hennessey; Vice-President Robert Fisher; and Secretary Richard Mahoney.

**LYLE FULTON
THANKED FOR
LONG TENURE**
At the reception prior to the Annual Meeting, President Dorene Ciarcia congratulated outgoing Board Member Lyle Fulton for his outstanding and unprecedented nine

consecutive years of service on the Board. On behalf of the entire membership, Ms. Ciarcia expressed the society’s gratitude for his service as President, Treasurer, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee during his long tenure.



HOUSE TOUR SET FOR JUNE 13

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

antiques. The other B & B is the striking Silas Robbins House at 185 Broad Street, painstakingly restored by hosts John and Shireen Aforismo and opened in 2007. In most cases, the first level of the private homes and the B & Bs will be open for viewing.

In "new" Wethersfield, the six remaining homes include a two-family built in 1924 which has been renovated. Both levels will be open to the public and the varied décor reflects the taste of the two different generations occupying them. Next is a 1939 home built as part of the Floral Park Development. Five rooms, including a state of the art kitchen, will be open along with two porches.

The remaining four homes include a 1963 home with extensive renovations, some done by the homeowner himself; a 1967 Griswold-built home which began its life as a traditional Colonial and has blossomed out into a showpiece (both levels will be open); a 1984 home with a dramatic entrance foyer and sunken living room; and a 1989 LaCava-built house (with an added deck and pool) set at a unique angle on its corner lot



LOIS CLARKE PHOTO



The House Tour Committee, chaired by Candace Holmes, has been at work since last fall, selecting homes for the tour, researching the history of each home and working with the homeowners on details for tour day. The tour book, which all visitors will receive as their ticket, will have brief backgrounds on the houses and insight into the significant architectural and design features of each home. In addition, guides in each of the rooms on display will provide specific information on the home's special features as well as changes made over time.

The tour will be held rain or shine. For more information on ticket purchase, call Wethersfield Historical Society at 860.529.7656 or visit the web site: www.wethhist.org.

HOUSE TOUR BOUTIQUE

Back by popular demand, the House Tour will feature its own special Boutique, held in the carriage house of the Silas W. Robbins Bed and Breakfast at 185 Broad Street. Expertly organized by Leslie Watson of The Villager Gift Shop at Avery Heights, this boutique will run the length of the tour from 10a.m. to 4p.m. and feature many beautiful items such as clothing, jewelry, handbags and unique gift items. It is perfect way to remember this Wethersfield event with a beautiful gift for you or your loved ones!

HOUSE TOUR DINING

Do you want to see all of the houses on the tour, but don't think there is enough time in the day to fit them all in and still stay fortified? Our good friends at Mainly Tea (221 Main) and J Michaels Tavern (222 Main) have provided some special meal options for tour-goers. You can pre-order a box lunch from Mainly Tea for \$11.50 featuring tea sandwiches, iced tea, scones and chilled soup by calling them directly at (860) 529-9517. Or, you can cap off your busy day with half-price appetizers and selected discount drinks at J Michaels Tavern when you show your House Tour booklet, 860.257.0700.

GARDEN CLUB TOUR

The Home Garden Club will present a Garden Tour, also celebrating the town's 375th anniversary, on Saturday, June 6, from 10-4.

"Everyday Gardening for the Everyday Gardner" will feature several gardens displaying a selection of annuals, perennials and specialty plants. Cost for the Garden Tour is \$10 in advance, \$15 on tour day. For more information, contact the Home Garden Club at 860.257.7859.

