



THE JONATHAN DICKERMAN HOUSE

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN EDITION 2010

Dear Members...News and Notes:

We extend a note of appreciation to all our members who responded to our call to renew their support of the Society. Our membership has remained constant over the last decade and your support has helped to provide the necessary operating funds for the Dickerman House Museum. May I remind you that the Dickerman House is a unique place because it reflects the plain living of Hamden farmers in the late 18th century. Simply designed, the house is preserved today much as it was when the Dickerman family lived there. With your help, the Society will continue to maintain this historic landmark as part of our town's cultural continuity. Thank you for your role.

The Rectory School Barn, which was moved from its original home at Centerville Lumber Company by our Society to "Meadowbrook" in May, 2001, now rests on a permanent foundation. This construction project was undertaken by the Town of Hamden, which owns the structure. This historic building will be reused as a home for Partnerships in Learning and Creative Exploration (P.L.A.C.E.), who have leased the barn. The Society's effort to save this barn from demolition is a good example of preservation-in-action, and with its restored use, it will continue to serve our community. That is good news!

The Giant Valley Association of Antiques Dealers had their annual picnic at the Cider Mill Barn on the Dickerman property. This local group of great people (shown right) organize, host, and manage the Antique Show for the Society's benefit. It remains our major fund-raiser. This **November** the show will be on **Saturday and Sunday the 13th and 14th**. Make note of the dates! Call 203-288-0017 to volunteer. Bring your friends; stay for lunch. Enjoy!

Noteworthy news is the Dickerman House hosted over 170 Hamden school children and twenty-six adults in April and May. Thanks to our education chairs: Lois Casey and Nancy Faughan.



SOCIETY MEETING

On June 10th, the Society held a meeting at the Miller Senior Center. Over forty people were present to hear Hamden's newest author, Eric D. Lehman, who gave a power point presentation based on his recent publication, Hamden: Tales from the Sleeping Giant.

Eric explained how Hamden has inspired people and why they came to love its environs; he related how some of our notable residents have contributed to the community's physical, cultural, social, and economic life. The presentation included both familiar "tales" and stories little known, all of which helped to shape Hamden's character. They underscored why we are proud to call Hamden "our town." Questions and answers followed the talk, books were available for autographing, and the Society served refreshments compliments of Barbara Doheny and Betsy Gorman.



Lehman's book, published in May by The History Press, is available for purchase in the Hamden Town Clerk's office at Government Center, at Gallery 4 Antiques & Gifts located at 2985 Whitney Avenue, or by calling Al Gorman, 203-288-0017.

SUMMER CLEANING

Our volunteer crew arrived on a Saturday in June to prepare the Dickerman House for its summer opening to the public. The interior was swept, vacuumed, polished, dusted, and the new curtains were hung. Outside the house, bushes were trimmed, weeds cut down, the Cider Mill Barn cleaned, and work began on the tool shed roof. The old "outhouse" from the former West Woods School, now used as a tool shed began to get a new roof, a cedar shingle one to match the house. Thanks! to Bob Zoni. Throughout the month the Spring Glen Garden Club had been getting the herbs garden prepared for the summer session; the weeding, replanting, and careful tending is greatly appreciated, as the garden enhances the house's property.

Shown on a brief break are:

Eric "the author" Lehman, Al Gorman holding Eric Gorman, Bill "bushwhacker" Doheny, Amy Nawrocki (front), and Bob "master carpenter" Zoni. Photo by Betsy Gorman.

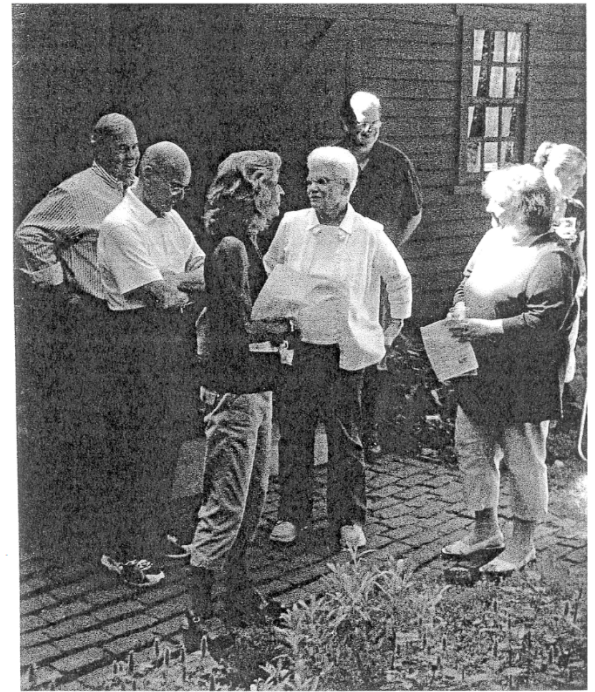
RECOGNITION

In April, The League of Women Voters Hamden-North Haven in celebration of Women in History Month presented an award to our Society "for outstanding accomplishments in the area of public service."



“WHAT A SWELL PARTY IT WAS!”

Historical Society members, docents, invited guests from the Spring Glen Garden Club, and welcomed visitors gathered at the Dickerman House, on its last public opening for this season to socialize and celebrate Eric Lehman’s book, Hamden: Tales from the Sleeping Giant. The weather cooperated, the wine and tea were iced, refreshments plentiful: books were sold, tours taken, gardens were appreciated, and most importantly, this “old red house” buzzed and hummed with human activity. It was so good to see friends and meet new visitors. The event made the front page of the “Post-Chronicle” with our own Ginny Zukunft featured. Thanks to all who helped to make the J.D. House the site of “Celebrating History” as the newspaper headline stated.



Also our appreciation to the Summer Docents who volunteered a Saturday or Sunday to welcome over 150 visitors. Thank you: Ken and Lori Minkema, Joe Pepe, Lois Casey, Joyce Gilbert, Al and Betsy Gorman, Charles Kortsep, Nancy Faughan, Fran Giffen, Mary Emblar, Ginny Zukunft, Eric Lehman and Amy Nawrocki, Stella Johnson, Linda and Roger Rovero, John and Marlene Carolla, Barbara Hogan, Kathy and Kim Casolino.

Summer Garden at the Dickerman House

The burnt ends of cinnamon ferns
curl into the still remaining whispers
of green fans. In the dooryard,
rosemary and oregano furnish
a slope of dirt encased by
hand placed stones where a toad
under the presumed silence
of camouflage waits invisibly
for an intruder to pass. Lining
the brick path are foxglove,
sage and tansies, and topping
the meadow rue, tiny purple
pearls thrust above the height
of the stone wall. The peonies
and forsythia have lost
their blooms, the bleeding
heart’s pillow of red has dried
and the irises have been cut
of their summer plumage.
Soon, the sun will begin
its turn away from us
and the house’s red door
will shutter against winter’s cold.

by

Amy Nawrocki

EARTH DAY 2010 was celebrated in Hamden last spring and our Society was present at the Town wide activity with an informational table. Held at the Hamden Middle School, Society volunteers promoted preservation, distributed brochures, displayed our publications, and answered questions at the five hour long event.

With energy conservation a hot topic and building construction seeking a “green” label with LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the idea of reuse, renewal, and restoration play an important role. “Old is the New Green” proclaimed the cover of “Preservation”, a publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. All historic structures have green potential. With adoptive restoration, natural resources, energy, and history can be saved, while demolition just fills dumps and destroys cultural resources.

The current restoration of Hamden’s historic Memorial Town Hall (1924) is a good example. The project preserves an important landmark and will meet the Silver level of LEED certification. By revitalizing this structure, raw materials are saved, energy costs are reduced, and its historic life is extended.

NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 5512, HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

FALL EDITION 2010

49TH ANNUAL GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW

November 13th and 14th, 2010

Saturday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Sunday 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.



MILLER LIBRARY - CULTURAL CENTER

2901 Dixwell Avenue Hamden, CT

Admission \$6.00 \$1.00 Off Admission with this card (good for 2 people)

One Free Appraisal with Price of Admission Sunday 12-3 P.M.

Directions:

From I-91 North or South, take Exit 10 to end (Rte. 40/Mount Carmel Connector). At traffic light take a left onto Whitney Avenue and go six traffic lights. At the sixth light (Dixwell Avenue) take a right. The Miller Library-Cultural Center is a short distance on the left.

From Route 15 North take Exit 61 and from Route 15 South take Exit 62. Turn right onto Whitney Avenue and at the second traffic light (Dixwell Avenue) take a left. The Miller Library-Cultural Center is a short distance on the left.

A BENEFIT FOR THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by the Giant Valley Association of Antiques Dealers • www.GVAAD.org