

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 5

SWEETS FOR THE SWEET:

A Special Valentine Tea

Chef Paul Staley of Madison Chocolates

Bring a guest or sweetheart for tea, tea sandwiches and some sweets. Browse the companion exhibit, *Expressions of Love*, – wedding dresses, portrait miniatures and hairwork jewelry.

NO CHARGE

RSVP by Feb 1 – Jody Perkins at 245-4357.

11:00 am - 1:00 pm /

Allis-Bushnell House



Friday, March 5

LIVING WITH HEIRLOOMS: An Insider's Guide to Caring for Historic Furniture

Tad Fallon & Randy Wilkinson

From private houses to the White House, the furniture conservation team of Fallon & Wilkinson has preserved some of our nation's best furniture. Through a series of fascinating case studies, they discuss the do's and don'ts of furniture care.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

7:00 pm / Memorial Town Hall

♥ ONE DAY ONLY ♥

Valentine's Exhibit at MHS

Antique Wedding Dresses & Valentine Memorabilia
Sunday, February 10
11am – 4 pm

HOLIDAYS AT ALLIS-BUSHNELL

MHS celebrated the holiday season with the Annual Members' Christmas party on Saturday, December 9, 2006. The c. 1785 Allis-Bushnell house was beautifully decorated with three Christmas trees, under the supervision of Louise Edmiston and Marge Lowery.

The Garden Club of Madison generously provided stunning holiday arrangements for the doors, the entrance and all over the house, giving it a very festive air. A local harpist from Daniel Hand High School, Sena Hornby, entertained all on her elegant harp.

Bob Green, President, and Lynn Friedman, Chairman of the Plaque Program, presented seven more plaques to historic homeowners.

Of special significance was the new plaque presented to Mrs. Betty Bushnell Kubler for the Allis-Bushnell House. Mrs. Kubler, age 95, is the daughter



Mrs. Betty Bushnell Kubler with Bob Green, President (right)

of the youngest son of Cornelius S. Bushnell. Her memories of her grandfather and his involvement with the *USS Monitor* were fresh and fascinating.

Cornelius Scranton Bushnell, born in 1828, lived in the Allis-Bushnell house until he went away to sea at the age of 15. By the time he turned

21 he had saved enough as the master of a schooner to invest in railroads. During the Civil War, responding to the threat of a Confederate ironclad vessel, Bushnell won support for the construction of a unique ironclad floating battery with a revolving turret named the *USS Monitor*, the Union's first ironclad vessel.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lynn Friedman joins MHS as Executive Director filling a position long vacant. In her new capacity Lynn will be responsible for facilitating the goals and objectives of the Society related to fi-

nance, programming and advocacy.

After Lynn and her husband Peter moved to Madison in 2005, she proposed a revival of the Society's long dormant Plaque Building Program, bringing her success with similar programs in Norwalk, Darien, and New Canaan where she was responsible for the execution and the historical research. Madison's program was launched in the summer of 2006 (see p. 2).

Highly talented, experienced and energetic Lynn currently serves as an Executive Member of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. She brings to the Madison Historical Society her experience as a former President, board member, project manager and grant writer for the Norwalk Historical Society as well as her work with the Norwalk Preservation Trust, the Rowayton Historical Society and the Norwalk Museum.

MADISON'S NEW LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT!

Congratulations, Madison!

After three years of hard work by the Madison Local Historic District Study Committee and Madison Planning and Zoning, the first Madison Local Historic District has finally been approved. Chairmen of the Study Committee, Beth Vogel and John Lind, brought the final vote to a dramatic conclusion at a Madison Town Selectmen's meeting on December 4, 2006.

The district, officially named

Madison Green Historic District, takes in most of the properties on the Boston Post Road from the Deacon John Grave



(Connecticut Historical Society, #2826)

House to the Woodlawn Restaurant. The preparation of a background report by Architectural Historian, Dr. James Sexton, was funded by a grant from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation to the Madison Historical Society. The Lee Academy, owned by the Madison Historical Society, is included in the district. (See John W. Barber drawing of Madison Green c. 1838 on right). Commissioners for the district will be appointed soon.

2007 Board of Directors

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HISTORIC PLAQUE PROJECT

MHS' revitalized Historical House plaque program, inaugurated in mid-2006, has received thirty applications and completed the deed research, and architectural reviews to deliver plaques for twelve houses by the end of December 2006.

Architectural Historian Dr. James Sexton drew a very large, interested and enthusiastic crowd for his talk at the Memorial Town Hall on September 18. Sexton showed slides of the step-by-step search for clues to the age of a house hidden in attics, basements and crawl spaces. After the program the first five

plaques were awarded.

As of December 31, 2006 plaques have been awarded to the following houses:

- 33 Liberty Street**, Phineas Griswold House, c. 1856, Charles and Nancy Lockwood.
- 100 Liberty Street**, Billy Dowd, c. 1797, John and Jennifer Chobor.
- 113 Liberty Street**, Hubbard Dowd House c. 1804, John and Jody Perkins.
- 853 Boston Post Road**, Allis-Bushnell House, c. 1785, Madison Historical Society.
- 949 Boston Post Road**, Susan J. Hart Tea Room, c. 1925, Victoria Kolyvas
- 2199 Durham Road**, Davis-

Burr House c. 1830, Jim and Beth Terenzio.

17 Beach Avenue, Edwin & Mary Watrous House c. 1847, Elbe and Barbara Weaver.

43 Middle Beach Road, Crossley-Kelly House c. 1890, Art and Marilyn Sale.

79 Middle Beach Road, Godman House c. 1868, Robert Dunlop.

113 Middle Beach Road c. 1907, Bill and Dani Woods.

295 Old Toll Road, James Hill 2nd House c. 1850, Amy Kuhner.

22 Scotland Avenue, Emerson & Annie Holbrook, c. 1907, Eileen Speed.



The Allis-Bushnell House c. 1785 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Madison Historical Society

Founded 1917
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MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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